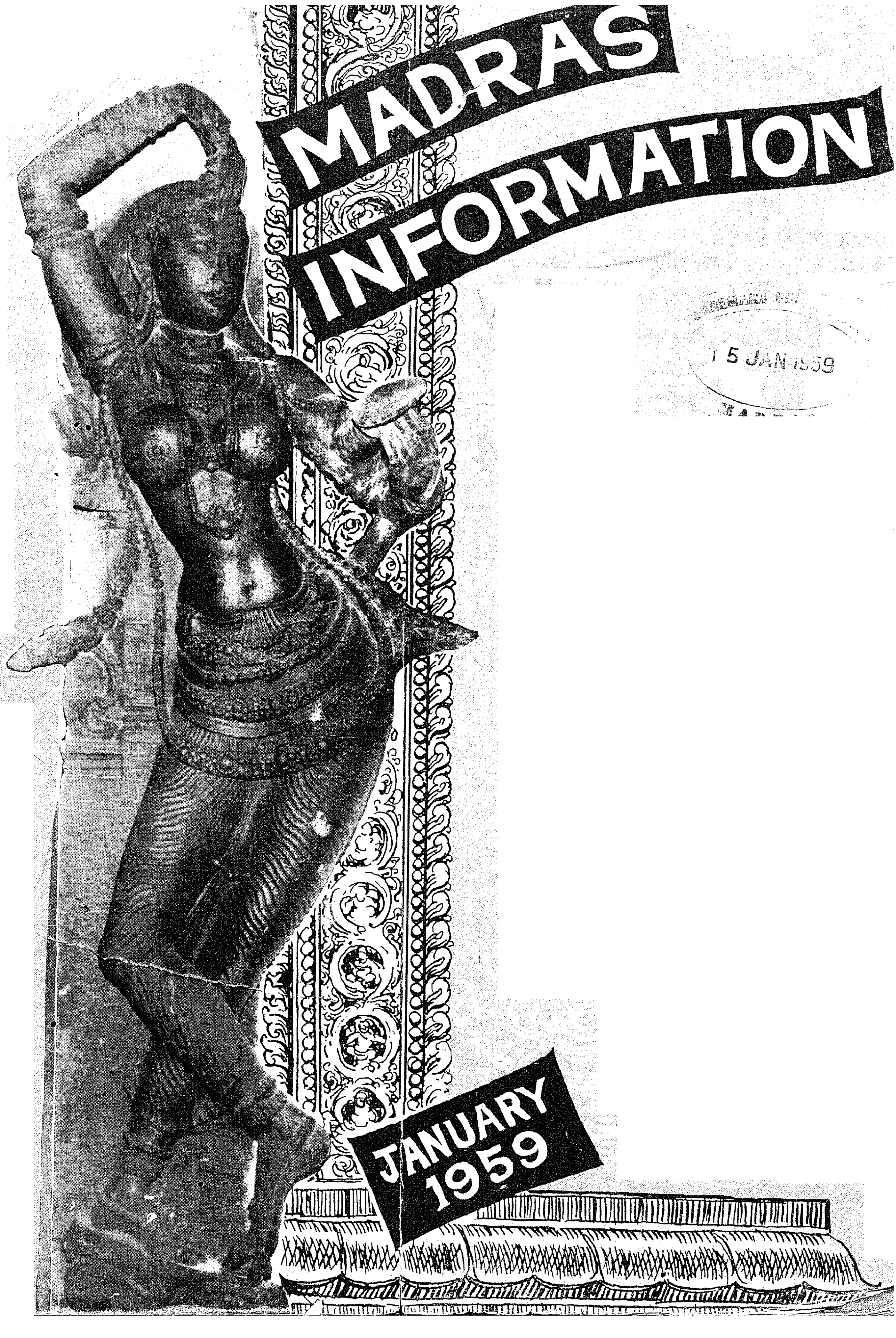
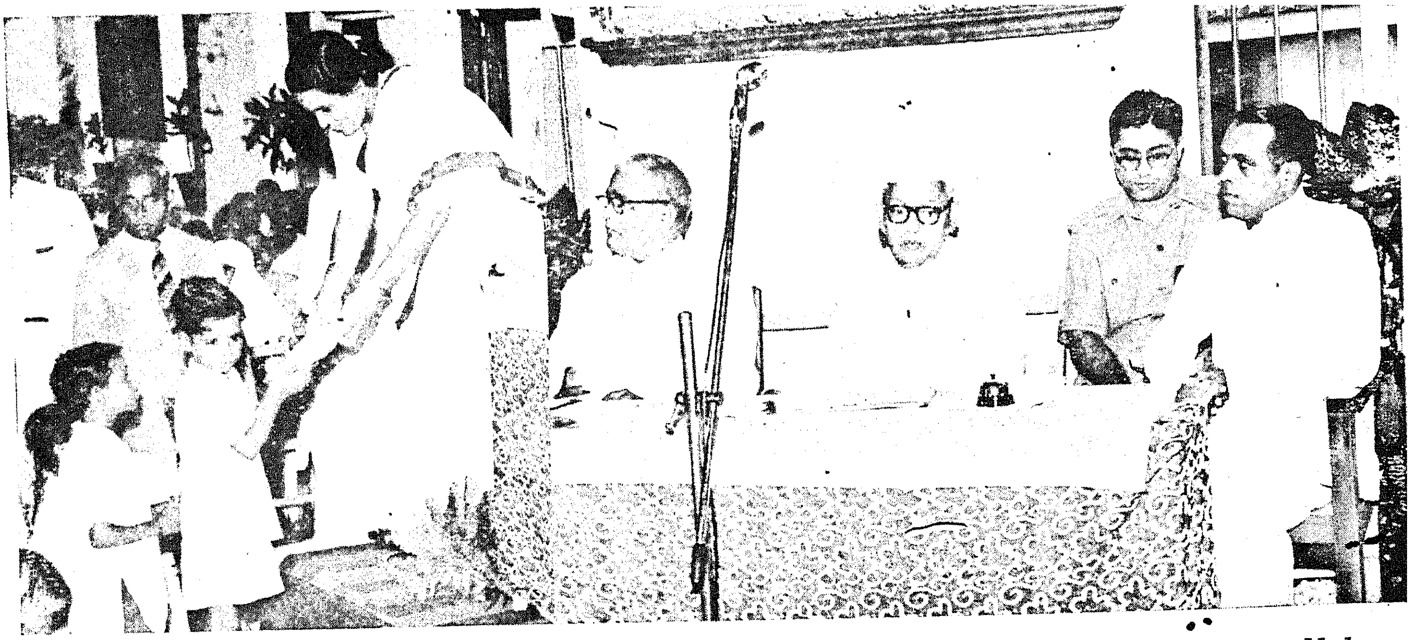


15 JAN 1959



The Governor, Sri Bishnuram Medhi, inaugurated the midday meals scheme for poor children in aided schools in Madras on 22nd November 1958 at the M. Ct. Muthiah Chettiyar Boys' School. Srimathi Lourdhammal Simon, Minister for Local Administration distributed food packets to the children.

Mrs. Verghese distributed prizes to the mothers of best babies at the Baby show conducted at Ashok Vihar on 19th November 1958 in connection with the children's week. The first prize went to a four month old baby who weighed 15 pounds.

Prize winning proud mothers with bonnie babies.

15 JAN 1959

Madras Information

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This month's cover:

Maiden at her Toilet—
Tenkasi Temple.

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15 JAN 1959
MADRAS

Know Your District:

Tirunelveli

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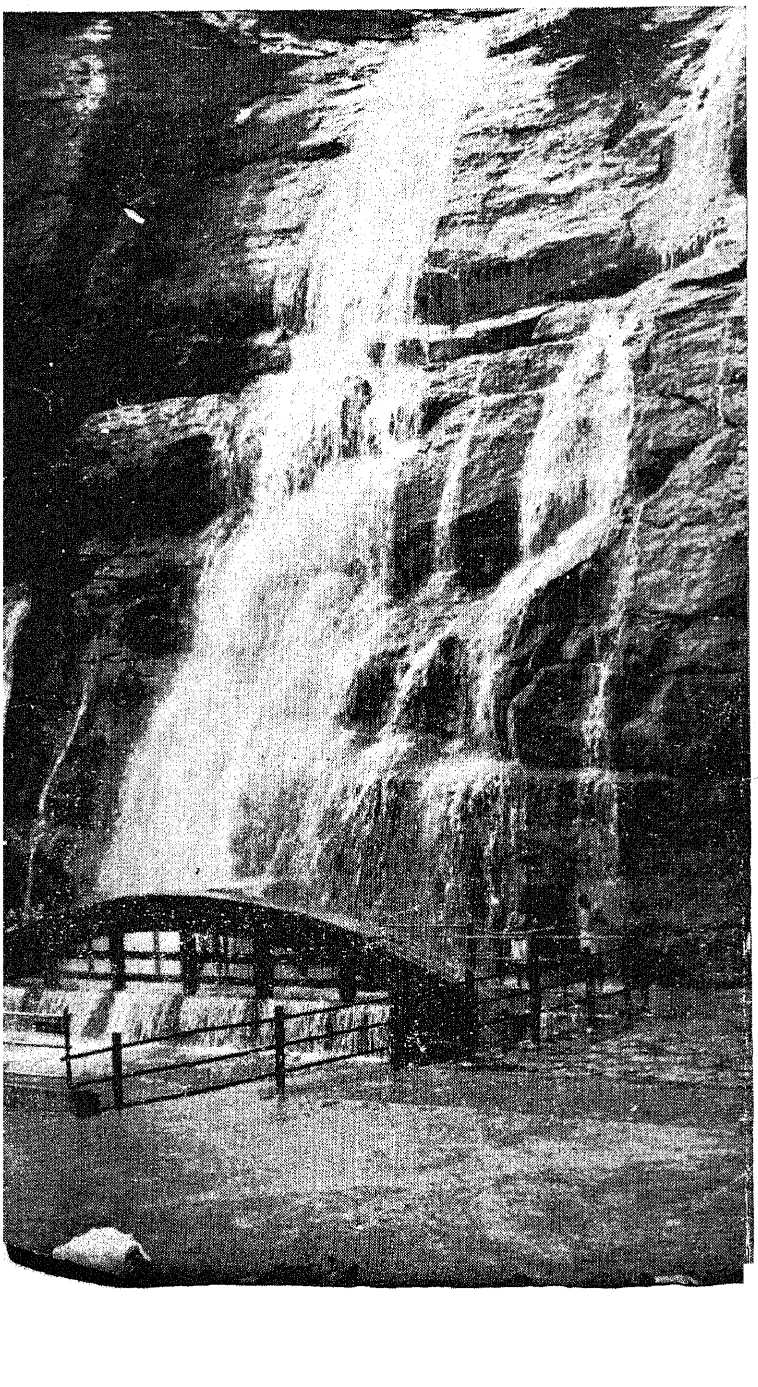
Tirunelveli district lies between 8° and 9° 30′ of the northern latitude and 77° 10′ and 78° 25′ of the eastern longitude. It is one of the southernmost district of the Madras State. Cape Comorin in the United State of Travancore and Cochin is five miles from the southernmost point of Tirunelveli district. The district is flanked by the Gulf of Mannar on the east and the south, by the State of Kerala on the west and the Ramanathapuram district on the north. The villages of Anjengo and Thangasseri originally attached to this district were recently transferred to the State of Kerala. The district has nine taluks as shown below:—

Taluks.	*Area of taluk.* SQ. MILES.	*Headquarters of the taluk.*
Sankaranayinarkoil	635	Sankanarayinarkoil.
Tirunalveli	325	Tirunelveli.
Ambasamudram	498	Ambasamudram.
Tenkasi	403	Tenkasi.
Nanguneri	705	Nanguneri.
Kovilpatti	1,086	Kovilpatti.
Srivaikuntam	362	Srivaikuntam.
Tiruchendur	323	Tiruchendur.
Shencottah	76	Shencottah.
Total	4,413	

The Courtallam Falls.



Physical Characteristics.

The Western Ghats run from north to south all along the western boundary of the district up to Aralvoimoli, about 10 miles north of the south-western corner of the district. They lie on the western portion of Sankaranayinarkoil and Tenkasi taluks, the western and southern portions of Ambasamudram taluk and the western portion of Nanguneri taluk. A gap in the mountains just to the west of Tenkasi called the Aryankavu Pass allows communications by road and rail into Kerala. The height of the Ghats which usually ranges from 3,000 feet to 5,000 feet with peaks shooting up to 6,000 feet diminishes considerably at the Aryankavu Pass. The Ghats break up near Aralvoimoli about 10 miles from Cape Comorin on the borders of Nanguneri taluk. There is a range of detached low hills in Srivaikuntam taluk called the Vallanadu hills with the highest peak 1,082 feet above mean sea level. The country east of the ghats is a plain sloping towards the sea relieved here and there by small isolated hillocks locally known as 'Pothais' and the Vallanadu hills. A faintly perceptible ridge of uneven height runs east from Uthumalai in Tenkasi taluk up to Gangaikondan in Tirunelveli taluk forming the water shed between the river Tambraparni and its chief tributary, the Chittar. In the east coast taluks of Tiruchendur, Srivaikuntam and Nanguneri there are hillocks of sand called Theris. Close to these Theris there are vast expanses of water called 'Tharuvais'. There are also backwaters near the sea coast in Tiruchendur taluk.

The district can broadly be divided into (1) the hilly regions on the west comprising the ghat area, (2) the river valleys, (3) the upland plains between each river valley, (4) the wide plains of black cotton soil in the north-eastern part of the district and (5) the coastal sandy area in the east and south.

Rivers.

There are a number of rivers in Tirunelveli district and almost all of them rise in the Western Ghats. The chief river is the Tambraparni about 75 miles long having its source in the Agasthiyar Peria Podigai in

the Western Ghats. It has numerous tributaries in the Ghats such as the Peyar, Pambar, Ullar, Kariyar and Servayar in Ambasamudram taluk. The river has been dammed in Ambasamudram taluk at Papanasam for regulating the supply of water for irrigation and for generation of electricity. At the foot of the hills in Ambasamudram taluk it is joined by the river Manimuthar. Further down, the river Gadana rising in the Sivasailam hills in Ambasamudram taluk and flowing north of the Tambraparni joins the Tambraparni at Tirupudaimarudur in Ambasamudram taluk. The Gadana is fed by the Ramanadhi and the Jambunadhi flowing from the hills to the west of Kadayam in Ambasamudram taluk. The river Tambraparni flows through Ambasamudram, Tirunelveli, Srivaikuntam and Tiruchendur taluks and enters the sea at Punnakayal in Tiruchendur taluk. The river Chittar rising in the Courtallam hills is fed by the Karupanadhi, the "Fivefalls" river and the Aludakanyar in Tenkasi taluk. It flows through Tenkasi and Tirunelveli taluks and joins the Tambraparni at Sivalaperi in Tirunelveli taluk. The length of the Chittar is 40 miles. River Korayar drains the southern part of Ambasamudram taluk and flows into the Kannadian channel taking off from the Tambraparni.

The rivers in Nanguneri taluk are the Pachiar, the Karumaniar, the Kilamanimuthar, the Nambiar and the Hanumanadhi. The Pachiar rises in the Vellimalai slopes of the Western Ghats, and flowing through Nanguneri taluk joins finally the Palayam channel in Tirunelveli taluk. The Nambiar rises in the Mahendragiri slopes of the Western Ghats and falls into the sea. Its tributaries are the Tamarayar, the Kombayar and the Kodamadiyar. The Hanumanadhi rises in the limits of Kerala and flowing through the Nanguneri taluk reaches the sea some five miles east of the district boundary.

In Sankaranayinarkoil taluk, there are a few small rivers. They are the Vadamalayar, the Kotamalayar, Nikshepanadhi, Kakanadhi and the Palayar. They join the Vaippar flowing from Ramanathapuram district through Kovilpatti taluk. The Malattar and the Uppodai are drainage courses in Kovilpatti taluk.

Forests.

The forests in the district occupy an area of 522·8 square miles out of which the private forests containing plantations occupy an area of 16·1 square miles, while the rest is reserved forest managed by the Government Forest Department. The reserved forests consist of scrub jungle in some places. In other places deciduous species, high grass, etah, semi-evergreen and evergreen shola occur. The plantations in the forests in Nanguneri taluk consist of teak and coffee. The plantations in Ambasamudram taluk consist of cardamom, tea, cinchona, tapioca and fruit gardens. The private forests in Tenkasi taluk contain cardamom plantations and fruit gardens. The private forest in Sankaranayinarkoil taluk contains cardamom plantations. Trees in the reserve forests are felled for charcoal and firewood by rotation arranged by the Forest Department.

Climate and Rainfall.

Most of the rainfall is had during the north-east monsoon. Ambasamudram, Nanguneri, Shencottah and Tenkasi taluks get some showers during the south-west monsoon also from over the Ghats. The weather is hottest during April and May. It cools down gradually from June. November to February are the cool months. From July to September Nanguneri, Ambasamudram, Shencottah and Tenkasi taluks get the cool breeze of the south-west monsoon through the passes in the Ghats. Courtallam situated 3½ miles from Tenkasi gets the benefit of this season on account of its proximity to the Aryankavu Pass.

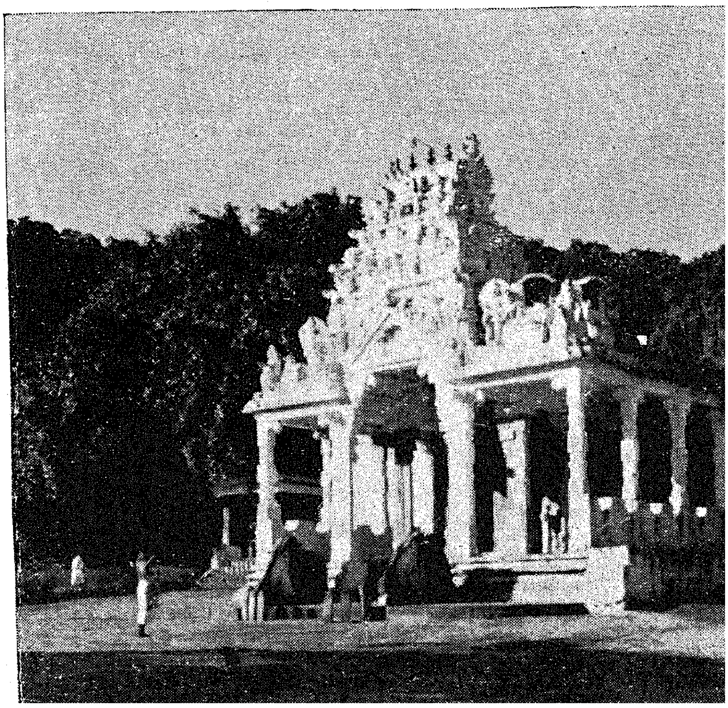
Soils.

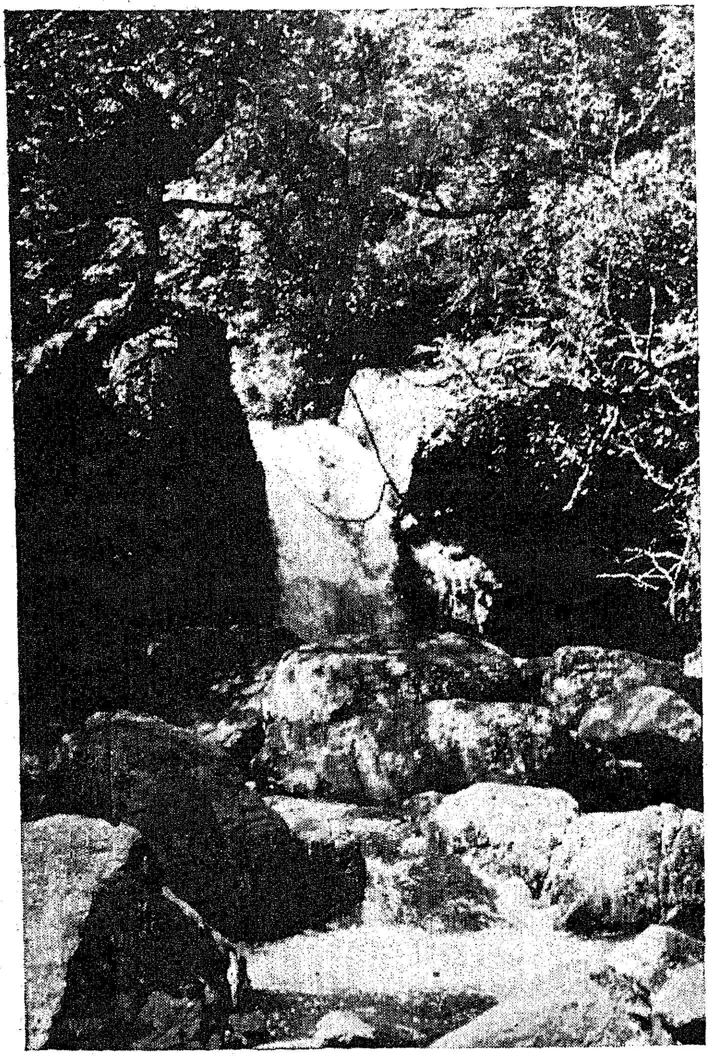
Along the foot of the Ghats there is a belt of 10 to 20 miles width of light loam and sandy soil and along the coast 3 to 15 miles width of sand. These two widen and fill the whole country south of the Tambraparni. North of the Tambraparni there are wide areas of undulating sandy soils and north and north-east of this lie broad level plains of rich black cotton soils.

The northern half of the district consists of black loam and the southern half red loam or sand with a strip of black loam in the valley of the Tambraparni. The black soil is of high value compared to red. The black soil of the river valley overlies a stiff yellow clay or Mar. Red soils in the higher reaches are poor, but along the river streams and with irrigation facilities they are good. On the south-east coast between the Tambraparni valley and mouth of the Nambiar is a tract of land about 40 miles long known as the Palmyra forest. The soil here is a deep lose red loam with surface sand with its depth varying from a few inches in well-protected areas to about 20 feet in other places.

Kovilpatti and portions of Sankaranayinarkoil and Srivaikuntam taluks come under the large belt of the

Sri Courtallanathar Temple at Courtallam





The Omagundam Falls at Papanasam.

black cotton plain of the north-eastern part of the district. In other areas red soil predominates.

Irrigation and Drainage Facilities and Liability to Famine.

The cultivation season created by the north-east monsoon, i.e., from October to January, is called the Pishanam season, that created by the south-west monsoon (June to September) is called the Kar season.

The district is mainly irrigated by the rivers rising in the Western Ghats through channels taking off from them above anicuts thrown across them. Irrigation is done direct from the channels or from tanks which they feed. Chains of tanks receive supply one after the other or direct from the channels. There are numerous rain-fed tanks in the upland areas. In Tiruchendur taluk, wells in 'Taruvai' areas called 'Theri springs' in which the water level keeps up to the water level in the Taruvais, are used for irrigation. There are also wells in the uplands irrigating limited areas. A special feature in Tenkasi taluk is the extensive raising of cholam crop on the dry lands adjoining the Ghats during the south-west monsoon with the aid of summer rains and light showers escaping through the Aryankavu Pass. The chief source of irrigation in the district is the river Tambraparni commanding an area of 87,900 acres. There are 8 anicuts across the river Tambraparni besides 2 dams above Papanasam where water is stored and released by regulators for generation of electricity and for irrigation. The river irrigates large areas in Ambasamudram, Tirunelveli, Srivaikuntam and Tiruchendur taluks.

The Kodaimelaligiyan, the Nediunni and the Kannadian anicuts serve Ambasamudram taluk.

The Kodayan channel taking off from the Ariyanayagipuram anicut, the Palayam channel from the Palavur anicut and the Tirunelveli channel taking off from the Suthamalli anicut serve Tirunelveli taluk.

The Marudur Melakal and Keelakal (channels) taking off from the Marudur anicut and the south main and north main channels taking off from the Srivaikuntam anicut serve Srivaikuntam taluk.

The Marudur Melakal and Srivaikuntam south main channel irrigate Tiruchendur taluk.

Ambasamudram taluk is also served by the Manimuthar, the Gadana river and the Varahanadhi. A scheme to construct a dam across the Manimuthar, a tributary of the Tambraparni, is under investigation. The Chittar river, the most important of the tributaries of the Tambraparni, irrigates some considerable area in the Tenkasi taluk, and a smaller area in the Tirunelveli taluk.

Nanguneri taluk is served by the Pachaiar, the Nambiar, the Kilamanimuthar, the Hanumanadhi and the Karumaniar. The Pachaiar in its lower reaches also serves a part of Tirunelveli taluk. Karumaniar also serves a portion in Tiruchendur taluk.

Sankaranayinarkoil taluk is served by the rivers Vadamaliar, Kottamaliar, Nikshepanadhi, Kakanadhi and the Palayar.

In the deltaic areas, the Tambraparni, with a perennial flow, assures regular supply for the areas served by it. The Chittar in Tenkasi taluk gives an assured supply in its upper reaches. The other rivers and streams mentioned also have a fair supply by reason of their having their sources in the Western Ghats. The upland areas of the district in all taluks depend only on the numerous rainfed tanks for irrigation of crops and these tanks in turn depend upon the rainfall in their catchment area. Whenever the rains are not adequate and are not timely the crops in the upland areas fail. But such failures do not occur on a large scale. The district can be said to be free from famine on the whole.

Area cultivated with Food and Commercial Crops.

The food crops grown in the district are paddy, cholam, cumbu, ragi, korra, varaghu and samai. The pulses are greengram, redgram, blackgram, bengalgram and horsegram. The commercial crops are groundnut, gingelly, cotton, tobacco, chillies and sugarcane.

The largest extent of paddy cultivation is in Ambasamudram taluk. Cholam is cultivated widely in Tenkasi and Sankaranayinarkoil taluks, and cumbu in Kovilpatti, Sankaranayinarkoil and Srivaikuntam taluks. Blackgram is cultivated in a considerable area in Tenkasi taluk. Cotton is very widely cultivated in Kovilpatti taluk.

The particulars of area cultivated with food crops, pulses and commercial crops in the various taluks in 1948–49 which was the most recent normal year for the district.

Communications.

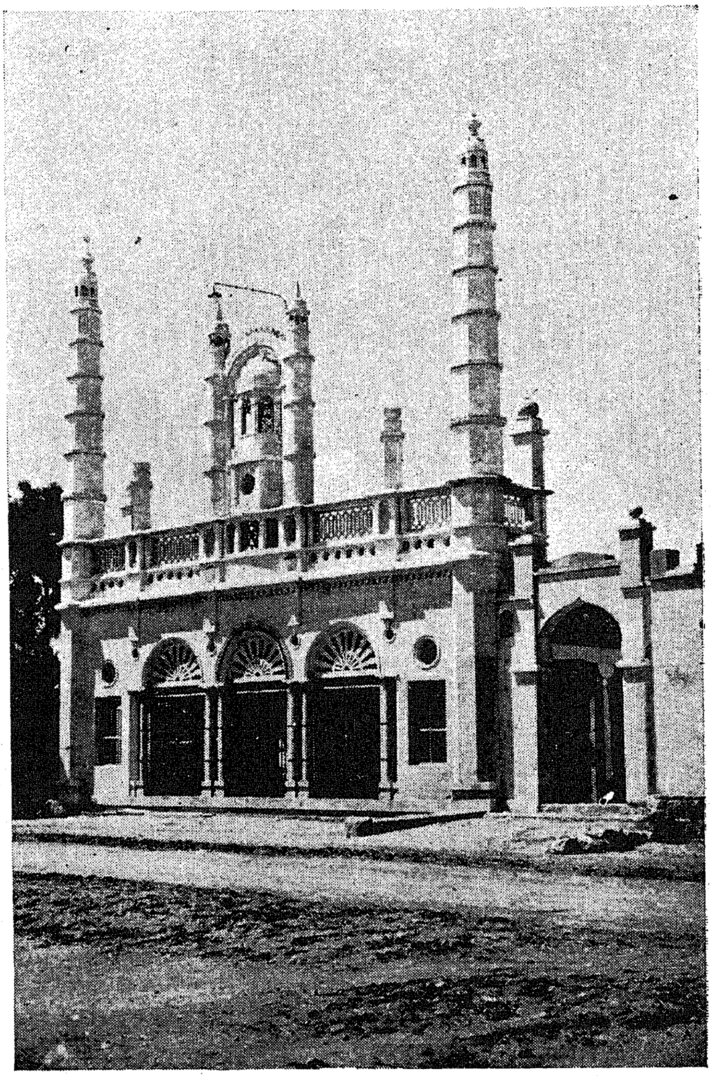
Roads.—There are 1,537 miles of roads in the district. Of this 9 miles are Pubic Works Department roads and 157 miles municipal roads. The roads maintained by the Highways Department are in good condition. The other roads suffer long periods of disrepair. Except in Tirunelveli and Ambasamudram taluks, road communications to rural parts are inadequate.

Railways.—The district is served by 188¾ miles of metre-gauge line of the Southern Railway. The main line runs from Madurai to Tuticorin traversing Kovilpatti and Srivaikuntam taluks. A branch line taking off at Maniyachi on the main line proceeds *via* Tirunelveli up to Shencotah and beyond into Kerala traversing Tirunelveli, Ambasamudram and Tenkasi taluks. There is a branch line from Tirunelveli Junction to Tiruchendur passing *via* Srivaikuntam and Tiruchendur taluks. A chord line branching off from Tenkasi connects with the main line at Virudhunagar Junction traversing Sankaranayinarkoil taluk of this district. The district headquarters, all the divisional headquarters and all the taluk headquarters, except Nanguneri, are served by railway. Nanguneri is however served by a passenger, parcel and goods out agency from Tirunelveli Junction. There are also parcels and goods out agencies for Tisayanvilai and Vadakkuvalliyur in Nanguneri taluk from Tirunelveli Junction and for Kulasekharapattinam and Udangudi in Tiruchendur taluk from Tiruchendur.

Post and Telegraphs.—There is one departmental telegraph office in the district. The district is provided with two head post and telegraph offices, 49 sub-post and telegraph offices, 14 non-combined sub-post offices, and 427 branch post offices.

Population.

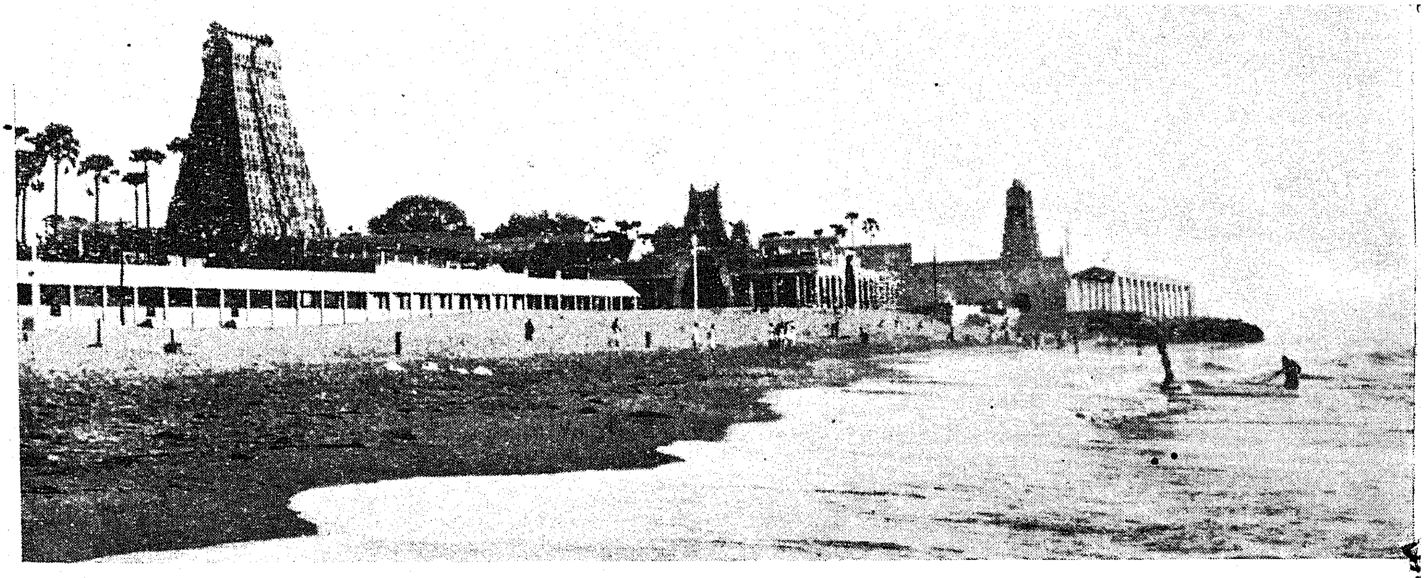
The population in this district according to the 1957 census was 2,506,275. The population has shown an increase of 9·3 per cent during the decade as against 9·7 during the previous decade. Ambasamudram, Tirunelveli and Srivaikuntam taluks cover the best part of the fertile Tambraparni delta. The increases of 13·3 per cent, 14·3 per cent and 16·3 per cent, respectively, in these taluks are therefore fully to be expected. The two poor dry taluks of Nanguneri and Tiruchendur have shown only the moderate increases of 7·7 per cent and 7·9 per cent, respectively. These taluks also have suffered, from the recent failure of the north-east monsoon for a number of years in succession, and there has been migration of the labouring classes



The Mosque at Vasudevanallur.

to fertile portions in the Tambraparni delta for employment. These taluks contain vast barren blocks and sandy tracts unfit for cultivation.

Tenkasi taluk has good dry lands and a considerable extent of irrigated land close to the Courtallam hills. It is not surprising therefore that this taluk has had an increase of 14 per cent. Sankaranayinarkoil and Kovilpatti are also dry taluks, but while the former has shown an increase of 12·1 per cent, the latter has shown an actual decrease to the extent of 4·5 per cent. The decrease in Kovilpatti is due to the fact that it suffered badly from the adverse seasonal conditions referred to above during the latter part of the decade, and there has been considerable emigration of labourers to the Tambraparni delta in the district, as well as to Tanjore district and to tea and coffee estates in Madurai and the Nilgiris districts. Sankaranayinarkoil taluk has fared far better because it has had a better rainfall than Kovilpatti, and has a larger extent of



The Sri Subramaniyaswami Temple at Tiruchendur.

wet lands (42,609 acres as against 8,492 acres in Kovilpatti), under tanks which do not ordinarily fail, thanks to the supply from the small rivers and streams flowing down from the Western Ghats.

Vital Statistics.

The average birth rate of 34·3 per *mille* during the decade was higher than that for the State (31·7). The annual birth rates covered about the average except in 1942. The average death rate was 23·7 per *mille* as compared with 21·2 for the State. On account of the very severe epidemic of cholera causing 12,492 deaths, the death rate in 1943 increased to 32·9 per *mille*. The death rates thereafter declined till 1949 and showed an increase in 1950. The average death rate (0·8 per *mille*) from cholera was higher than that (0·6) for the State, and it was about normal in the case of dysentery and diarrhoea, and respiratory diseases. The mortality rates from fevers and smallpox were below the normal for the State. The district was free from plague during the decade. The average maternal mortality rate was 9·4 per 1,000 child births as against 8·1 for the State.

The infant mortality rates recorded reveal a decline during the latter half of the decade.

Medical Relief.

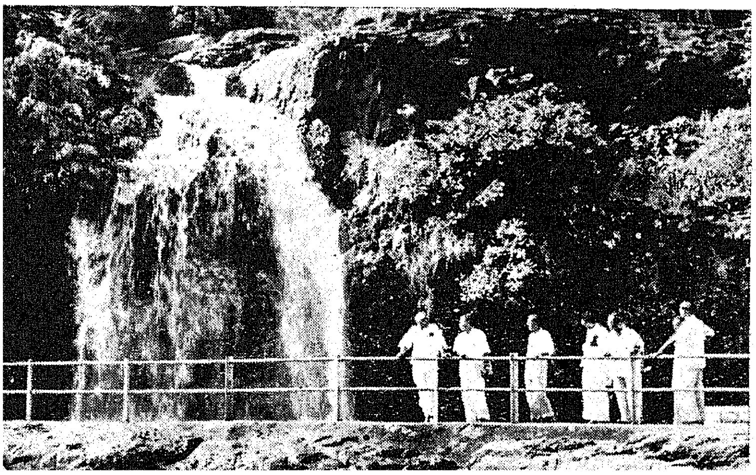
There are 16 hospitals and 36 dispensaries in the district. Seven of them are Government hospitals with 293 beds, two municipal hospitals with 18 beds, three local fund hospitals with 30 beds and four mission hospitals. There are two Government, 23 local fund, four municipal and six rural dispensaries. The Government Hospital at Vannarpet in Palayamcottai with 60 beds is a women and children hospital. The Mission Hospital at Dhonavur is also now confined to the treatment of women and children. The Municipal Hospital at Palayamcottai with six beds is used only for maternity cases. There are X-ray facilities in the Government hospitals at Palayamcottai and Tuticorin. At Tuticorin there is a lepresorium run by the Roman Catholic Mission with 43 beds. There is a women and child-welfare centre run by the Red Cross Organization at Palayamcottai.

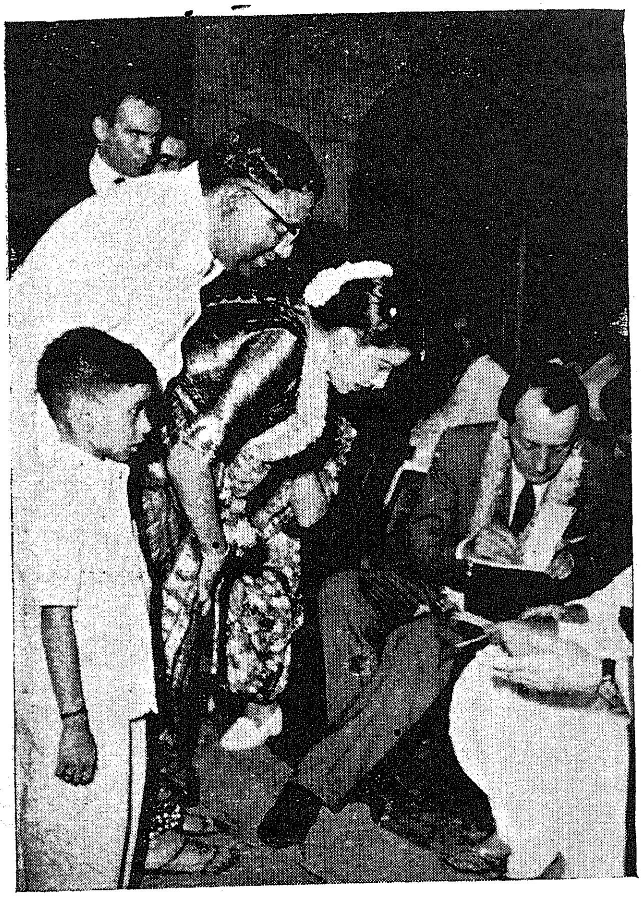
Industries.

Cottage, small-scale and large-scale—(i) *Cottage and small-scale industries.*—The particulars of the important cottage and small-scale industries of the district in each taluk and the approximate number of persons employed in them are given in Annexure IV.

(ii) *Large-scale industries.*—There are no large-scale industries in Sankaranayinarkoil, Tenkasi and Nanguneri taluks and salt manufacture is the only important large-scale industry in Tiruchendur taluk.

The Papanasam Falls.





Monsieur Malrau, the French Minister without portfolio, in the course of his tour of India paid a visit to Madurai where he was entertained to a Bharathanatya performance by Kumari Kalai Arasi, daughter of Sri W. P. A. Chandrasekaran, M.L.A. The French Minister is seen signing autograph for Kumari Kalai Arasi.

The large-scale industries carried on in the other taluks are specified below:—

Name of taluk.	*Nature of industry.*	*Number of establishments.*	*Number of persons employed.*
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
Kovilpatti ..	Cotton ginning and baling.	28	1,143
	Cotton spinning and weaving.	2	1,865
	Match making ..	8	686
Tirunelveli ..	Printing and Publishing.	17	351
	Cement factory ..	1	419
	Motor workshop ..	19	589
Srivaikuntam ..	Cotton ginning and baling.	7	349
	Dhall mills	15	148
	Salt factories ..	6	243
	Cotton Spinning mill.	1	4,093
Ambasamudram.	Beedi fatory ..	7	313
	Cigar works ..	5	199
	Cotton Spinning mill (1) Cotton Spinning and weaving (1)	2	6,501

Items of General Importance.

Tirunelveli is the seat of the Collector and the District Judge.

There are four municipalities in the district. They are Tirunelveli, Tuticorin, Palayamcottai and Melapalayam. There is a veterinary hospital at Tirunelveli. There is an Agricultural Rice Research Station at Ambasamudram and an Agricultural Cotton Research Station at Kovilpatti. There is a Borstal School for adolescent offenders at Palayamkottai.

Sea-fishing is carried on along the entire coast.

The Papanasam Hydro-Thermal Electric Scheme provides electricity for the southern districts supplementing the Mettur and Pykara Grid.

Tuticorin is a sea-port. Ships are anchored a few miles off the coast. There is a sea route to Ceylon from Tuticorin with a regular steamer service. Articles of trade of the southern districts pass through this port.

Courtallam, 3½ miles from Tenkasi, is a health resort attracting a large number of visitors during the south-west monsoon from June to September. The bath in the waterfalls of the Chittar river at Courtallam is invigorating.

The Subramanya Swami temple at Tiruchendur and the temple at Sankaranayinarkoil are sacred to the Hindus. Pilgrims visit them in large numbers from all over South India.

The Tamil poet, Sri Subramanya Bharati, spent most of his life at Ettaiyapuram where a Bharati Mandapam has been raised in his memory.

The Prime Minister's Birthday was celebrated on 23rd November 1958 at the P.S. High School, Madras. Sri Harekrishna Mehtab, Chief Minister of Orissa, who presided, is seen giving the prize to the winner of the Oratorical contest.

The Chief Minister addressing the gathering at the inaugural function.

1959 Vol XIII Jan

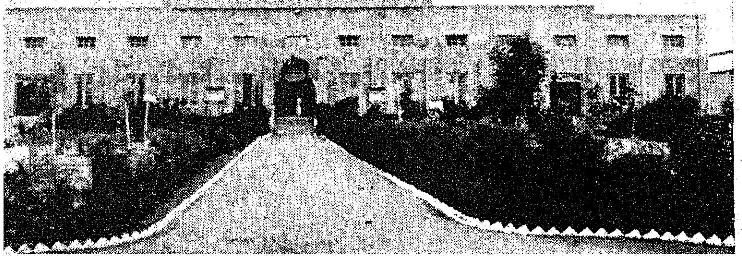
Co-operative Spinning Mills at Tirunelveli

First Venture in Madras State

A steady and adequate supply of yarn of standard quality and counts at reasonable prices to the weavers has always been an acute problem in the handloom industry. Yarn accounts for nearly 60 per cent of the cost of handloom cloth.

At present there was no scarcity of supply of yarn. But there were years when yarn rationed to the weavers. So proposals to start Co-operative Spinning Mills was sponsored by the Madras State Handloom Weavers' Co-operative Society.

The Co-operative Spinning Mills at Tirunelveli



The South India Co-operative Spinning Mills was started in May 1952. The Madras State Handloom Weavers' Co-operative Society contributed Rs. 15 lakhs towards the share capital.

Negotiations were also started for the purchase of the land and partly constructed buildings owned by the Murugan Textiles, at Pettai, Tirunelveli. It was finally decided in October 1955 to purchase their land, buildings and materials for Rs. 3,60,000 and to apply at the same time for the acquisition of the land and buildings under the Land Acquisition Act. The land and buildings were taken possession of in 1956, and orders were placed for the required machinery after obtaining necessary import licences.

By the end of 1957, the main buildings of the mills vere completed and the bulk of the machinery was eceived and erected. The award under the Land Acquisition Act was also received. The management xpected to start production of yarn with 4,000 spindles n January 1958 out of the 16,000 spindles planned for, ut the acute shortage of electricity and the consequent an on connecting new industrial loads stood in the way f the early starting of the mills. It was not until July 1958 when the supply position of electricity mproved that the mill could go into production with 8,000 spindles. It has completed the erection of the emaining 8,000 spindles and they are ready to go into production as soon as the additional loads of electric upply applied for is sanctioned.

Area of Operations.

The membership in the mill is open only to the Madras State Handloom Weavers' Co-operative Society, the Primary Weavers' Co-operative Societies situated within its area of operation and the Government of Madras. The authorized share capital is Rs. 60 lakhs made up of 60,000 shares of Rs. 100 each. The paid-up share capital of the mill is Rs. 41,86,700 contributed by the Madras State Handloom Weavers' Co-operative Society, Limited, Rs. 15,15,000; Primary Weavers' Co-operative Societies, Rs. 16,71,700 and the Government of Madras, Rs. 10,00,000.

This includes the share capital of Rs. 1,05,600 contributed by the Weavers' Co-operative Societies in Malabar and South Kanara, now merged with Kerala and Mysore States. This sum would be transferred to the co-operative spinning mills which might be started in these States. Rs. 98,000 has already been transferred to the Cannanore Co-operative Spinning Mills.

Management.

The management vests in the Board of Directors, consisting of the following nine members: the President of the Madras State Handloom Weavers' Co-operative Society, Limited (Chairman); four Directors elected by the Board of Management of the Madras State Handloom Weavers' Co-operative Society from among the Directors representing the Primaries; the Registrar of Co-operative Societies (ex-officio); the Director of Handlooms (ex-officio); one Director nominated by the Madras Government from among persons connected with the spinning industry; one co-opted by the Board of Directors with reference to the needs of the Mills and the Handloom Industry.

The day-to-day administration of the Mills is being carried on by a General Manager of the rank of a Deputy Registrar of Co-operative Societies whose services have been lent by the Government for three years from May 1956 on foreign service terms.

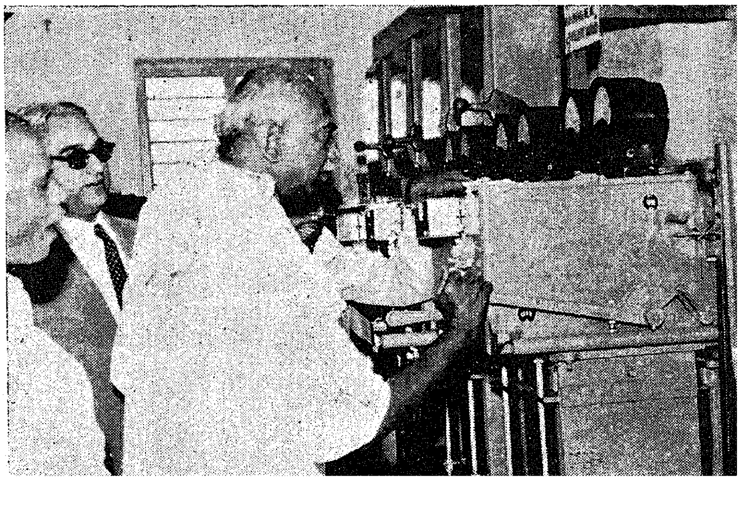
The total estimated capital expenditure of the Mills will be as follows: lands and buildings including electric installation and humidification, Rs. 13·36 lakhs; and machinery including motors, freight, import duty, clearing charges, erection, etc., Rs. 34·58 lakhs.

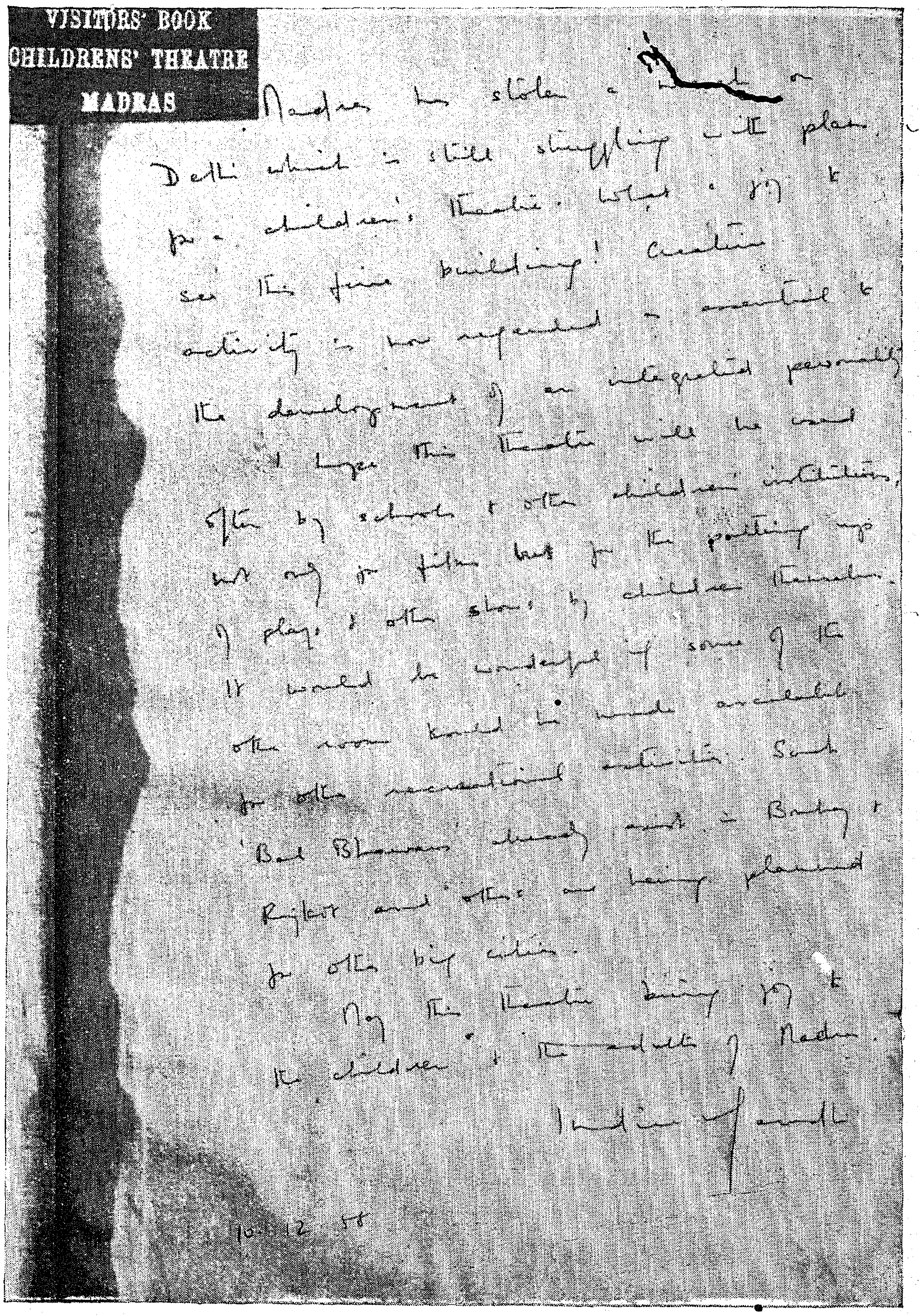
The Mill has started production of yarn with effect from July 14, 1958. It is running 8,000 spindles now and remaining 8,000 spindles will go into production immediately on receipt of the sanction for the increased load of electric supply applied for. The cotton required is purchased mainly through the Co-operative Marketing Societies in Tirunelveli district and the produce is delivered to the Madras State Handloom Weavers' Co-operative Society, Limited. The Mill has produced so far up to November 15, 1958, 1,069 bales of 20s yarn and despatched them to the several units of the State Society under its instructions. The overall capacity of the Mills with its 16,000 spindles running two shifts is 750 bales of yarn of 20s per month.

Besides the share capital of Rs. 41,86,700 collected from weavers' co-operative societies and contributed by the State Government the mill has built up a Reserve Fund of Rs. 1,45,742 and a Replacement Fund of Rs. 70,266 which have been utilised for meeting capital expenditure. It has also applied to the State Government for additional financial aid of Rs. 5 lakhs either by way of shares or long-term loan. The Madras State Co-operative Bank has sanctioned a Cash Credit accommodation of Rs. 10 lakhs towards working capital.

The long cherished hope of the handloom weavers in the co-operative fold has been realised in the starting of this mill and it is hoped that with their co-operation and support and the continued assistance of the Government and the All-India Handloom Board, the mill will grow from strength to strength and spread its usefulness to the handloom weavers in an ever-increasing measure.

The Chief Minister switched on the Machinery at the Mills





A Page from the Visitors' Book of the Children's Theatre

Srimathi Indra Gandhi, after a visit to the Children's Theatre, Madras, on 10th December 1958, has recorded the following as her impression in the Visitors' Book of the Theatre:—

" Madras has stolen a march on Delhi which is still struggling with plans for a children's theatre. What a joy to see this fine building ! Creative activity is now regarded as essential to the development of an integrated personality.

I hope this theatre will be used often by schools and other children's institutions, not only for films but for the putting up of plays and other shows by children themselves. It would be wonderful if some of the other rooms could be made available for other recreational activities. Such ' Bal Bhavans ' already exist in Bombay and Rajkot and others are being planned for other big cities.

May this theatre bring joy to the children and the adults of Madras."

The Sculptural wealth of Tirunelveli District

Tirunelveli District is famous for its temples of Lord Siva. Temples of Lord Vishnu are also found here and there in this district. A combined temple for Lord Siva and Lord Vishnu is located at Sankaranayinar Koil, a phenomenon found nowhere else.

There are temples big and small ; old and new ; in towns and in villages ; in forests, on hills and along river banks ; and there are 2,000 of them. Most of them are antique and they are believed to have been built in the time of the Pandya Kings of Madura.

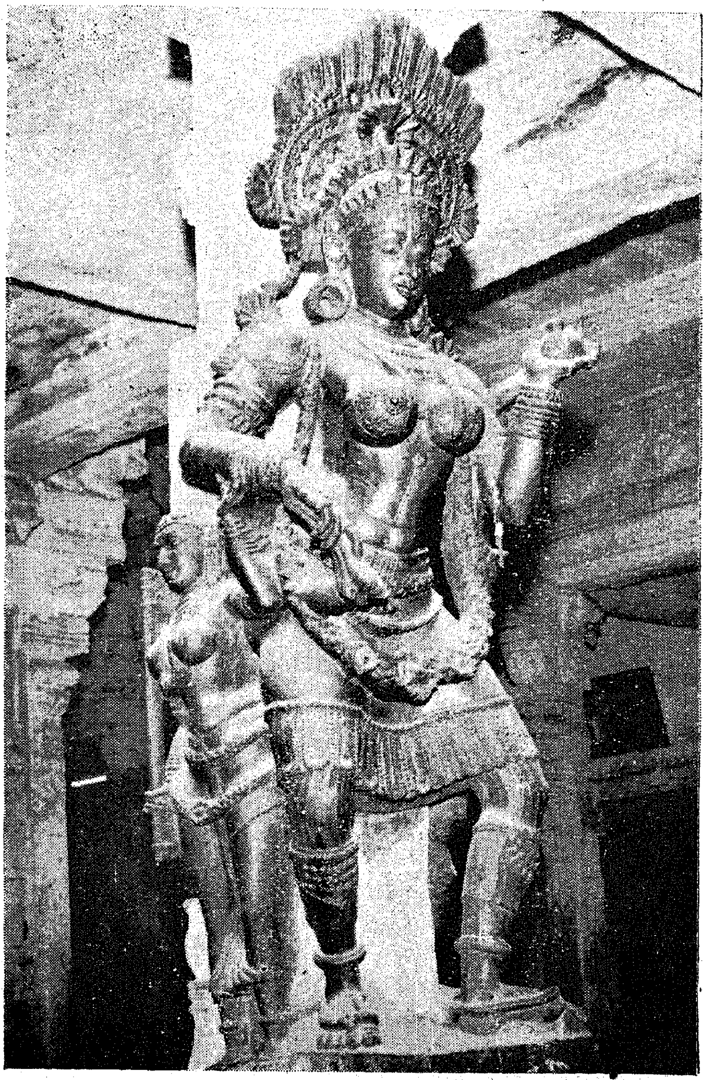
Sri Nellayappar Temple, Tirunelveli

The Nellayappar Temple at Tirunelveli has a short Gopuram. Adjoining it is the temple of Sri Kanthimathi Amman with a separate entrance. The tower of Kanthimathi Amman temple was built in the year 1626 and that of the Nellayappar Temple was constructed 20 years earlier. There are 96 pillars in the *Oonjal mantapam* (the hall of the swing).

The *Thirukkalyana Mantapam* has got a thousand pillars and the *Panguni Uthira Sengol* festival is celebrated here. The halls in front of the two temples contain some of the most beautiful wood carvings. Usually these carvings are found only on the temple cars.

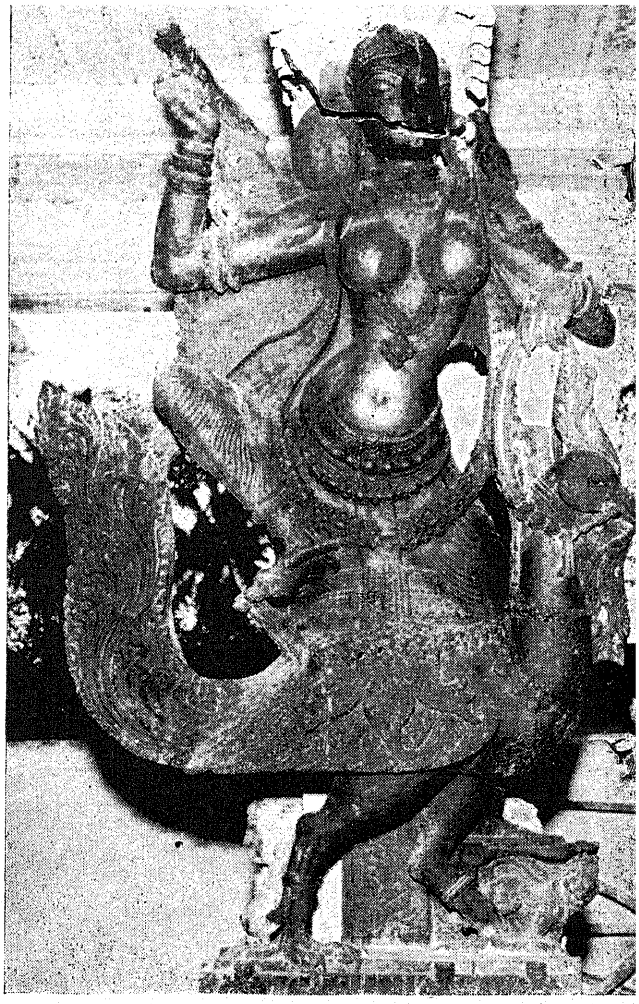
Sculptures of warriors, musicians and others are found in plenty in the Nellayappar temple. The pillars in the main hall are made up of a cluster of small

Alli and Arjuna in the Sri Nellayappar Temple.



Annapurani in the Sri Nellayappar Temple at Tirunelveli,

A Dancer in the Krishnapuram Temple.

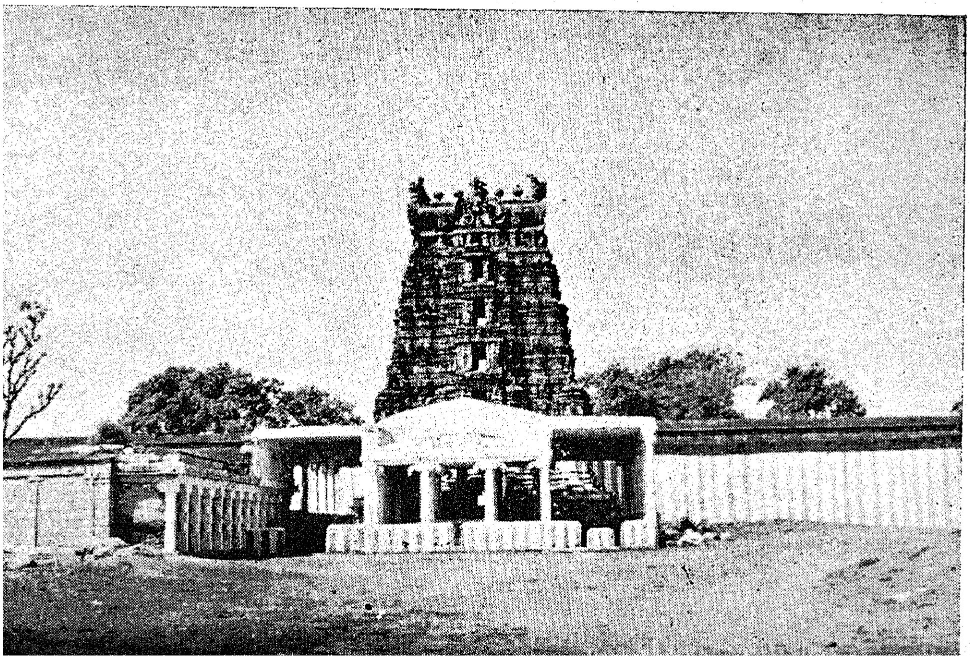


Rathi Devi in the Krishnapuram Temple.

pillars hewn from a single stone. If these stones are struck they produce different musical notes.

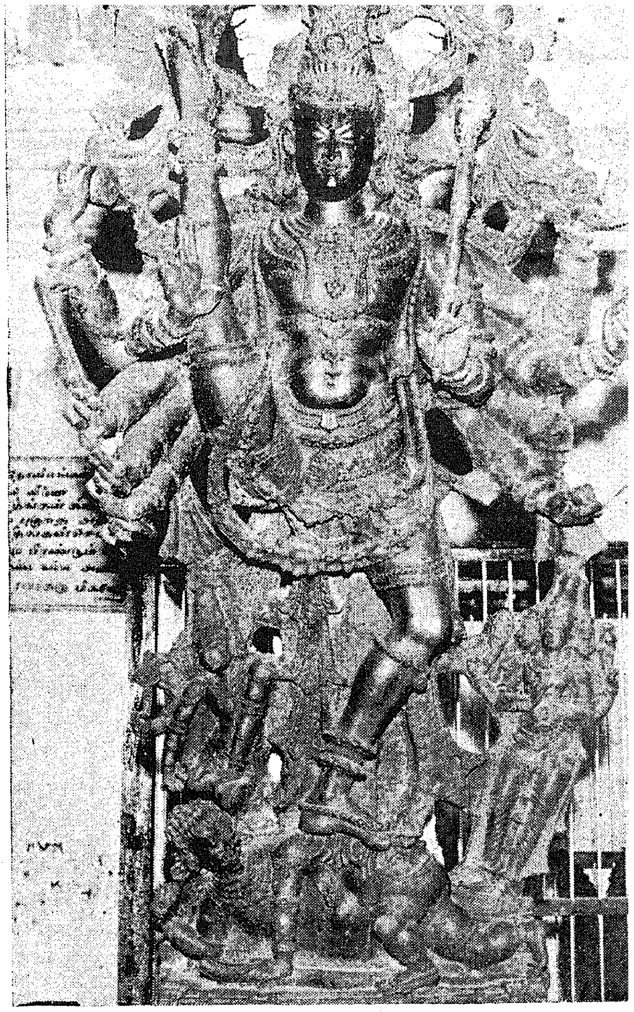
Sri Venkatachalapathi Temple, Krishnapuram

This temple is situated at Krishnapuram, about six miles from Palayamkottai on the road to Tiruchendur in the Tirunelveli District. This temple is a treasure house of rare sculpture, handiworks of sculptors of Vizianagaram, brought specially for this purpose by the then Pandya King Sri Krishnappa Nayakkar. This temple attracts a large number of commiseurs of art year in year out.



The Temple at Krishnapuram.

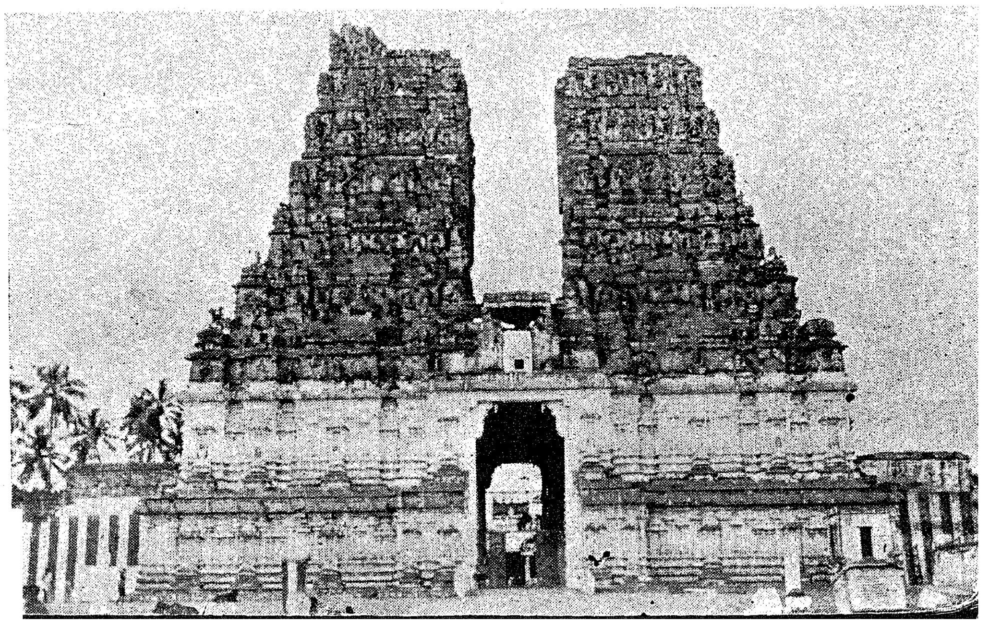
Sculpture of a Maiden in the Tenkasi Temple.



Urthuva Thandavam in the Tenkasi Temple.

Sri Kasiviswanatha Temple, Tenkasi

This 500-year old temple at Tenkasi has a towe which was damaged 150 years ago by fire. Even no the tower stands split in the middle on top. There a some exquisite pieces of sculpture in this temple. Th one on the cover page of this magazine and the one c the facing page are noted for their beauty and intrica handiwork.

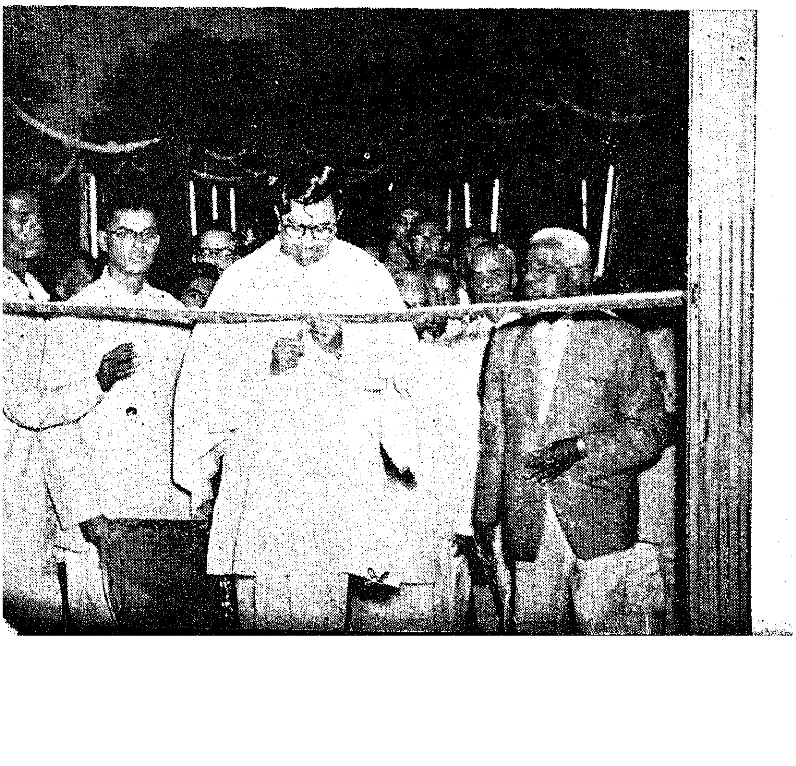


Sri Kasiviswanathaswamy Temple at Tenkasi.

The new hostel.

New Block for Veterinary College Hostel

Sri C. Subramaniam, Minister for Education, declaring open the Building.

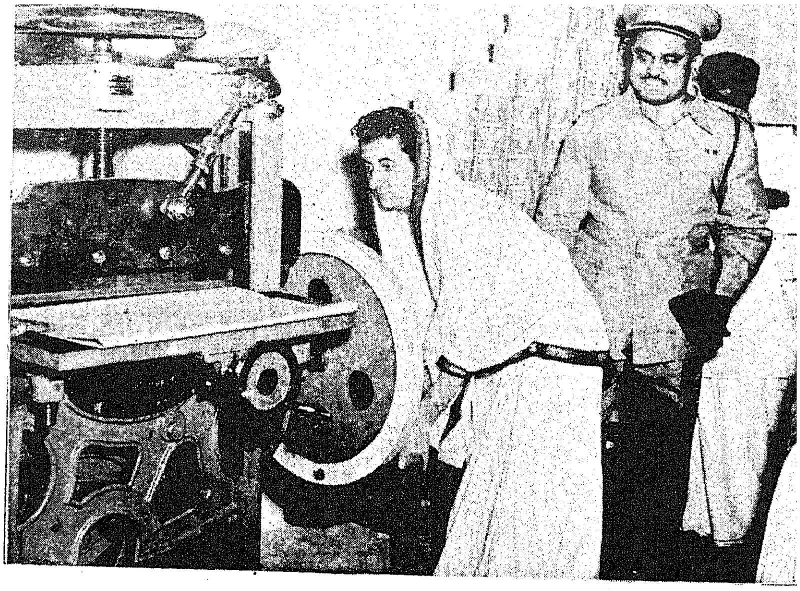


The Extension Block for the Veterinary College Hostel was declared open on 10th December 1958 by the Finance Minister Sri C. Subramaniam. Sri M. Bhaktavatsalam, Minister for Agriculture, presided over the function.

It will be interesting to trace the growth of this hostel from its beginning. The first batch of six residential students was housed in the Dohin Hall of the College premises. It was in 1905. In 1914 there were 47 students in the hostel. In 1931 the main hostel building consisting of two blocks were completed. One hundred and twenty could be accommodated in it. In 1948 an annexe was built and 30 more could be accommodated in it.

The new building has been built at a cost of Rs. 7 lakhs. It can accommodate 250 students in its 101 double rooms and 48 single rooms. In addition, there are 8 guest rooms too.

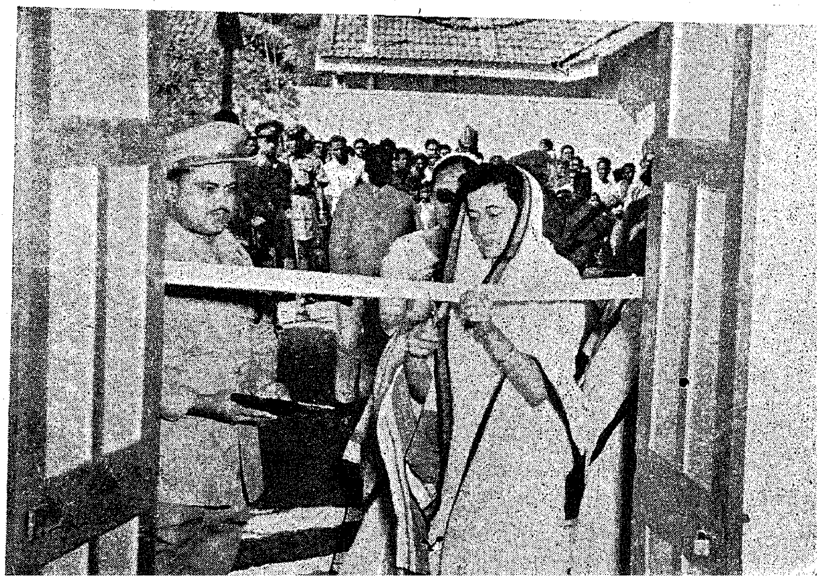
Srimathi Indira Gandhi, inaugurated the Envelope-making Scheme at the Policemen's Families Welfare Centre at Kilpauk on 9th December 1958, by operating the paper cutting machine while Sri P. Paramaguru, Deputy Commissioner of Police, looks on.



WELFARE OF POLICEMEN'S FAMILIES

Srimathi Indira Gandhi watching the members of the centre making envelopes.

Srimathi Indira Gandhi declared open the Welfare Centre at the Kilpauk Police Lines on 9th December 1958.



Prevent That Fire!

Sri U. NARAYANA, District Fire Officer, Madras

The value of the truth in the old proverb "prevention is better than cure" is being increasingly realised more and more day by day. Inasmuch as it is well accepted that most fires are caused mainly through carelessness and indifference resulting in disaster and destruction it is but quite in the fitness of things that more and more attention should be paid to the aspect of prevention of fires. It is, therefore, sought through the celebration of a fire prevention week to make our people conscious of the very serious consequences of carelessness and indifference on their part and vividly demonstrate to them the potential danger in such carelessness or negligence. It is also sought to impress that negligence and indifference might not only cause incalculable harm to the person so negligent and his property but also endanger or destroy the lives and properties of others who might in no way have been responsible for such negligence.

With the rapid industrialization of our country and the progress achieved through our Five-Year Plans fire risks have also considerably increased. It is absolutely essential that every citizen should develop a civic sense of fire prevention so that the progress achieved year after year may not be retarded through fire losses; for, fire losses are a national loss. In Madras State alone, the losses due to fire accidents every year approximate nearly forty lakhs of rupees! This may appear to be unbelievable but is, nonetheless, true.

There has been a continuing trend in recent years towards greater fire prevention work. The science of fire-fighting is no longer considered a mere problem of getting to a fire-spot in a hurry and dumping as many tons of water on the fire until the flames stop looming up. With new industrial methods and chemical processes daily multiplying hazards in cities all over the country, the fire services have to build upon the growing knowledge of how to prevent fires and guard against potential trouble. In fact, in the United States of America, many of their departments send their fire service equipment and man-power for house-to-house fire inspection during normally quiet day-time periods. While one fireman stays with the equipments listening in for any radio alarms of fire, his colleagues go from door to door looking for potential fire-breeders, thus carrying on a constant public education programme. In certain towns in Scotland, old people are given free fire extinguishers for their homes by the Town Councils to help reduce burning accidents, and certain necessitous families are loaned fire-guards where there are children under 12 or elderly or handicapped persons. This interest in fire-prevention is not very surprising when we remember that the annual fire losses in Scotland approximate nearly £40 million every year while there is an annual damage to the tune of about 1,250 million dollars by fires in the United States of America. Apart from this, 11,300 Americans were killed by fire last year; of these, 6,400 were burnt in their own homes! In England last year fire damages approximated £30 million; 63 large fires alone destroyed more than £16 million worth of the country's industrial wealth; and it is reported that by far the majority had totally inadequate fire protection arrangements!

Sri M. Bhaktavatsalam, Home Minister, inaugurating the Fire Prevention Week and Opening the Exhibition in Madras City on 1st November 1958.

Fire has always been a dangerous enemy. It must be remembered that fire is not only a destroyer of property but is also a killer. In World War II, it accounted for more deaths than any other weapon. It carries with it in peace as well as in war that appalling potential killer—panic. It is the cheapest and the most effective weapon of war that can be produced. Defence against fire is not however, a war-time necessity. As I have already said, the damages and deaths due to fires reach appalling figures.

Every owner of property, whether private or commercial, takes out insurance policies to cover fire-risks. Every citizen is compelled to some extent to maintain reasonable standards of sanitation in his every day life. Many thousands of rupees are spent annually on means of reducing the casualties on the public roads. But, from the point of view of the State, no pressure is brought to bear on the individual to make fire prevention compulsory. The medical profession studies disease with a view to preventing its incidence and does

not merely accept it and then attempt a cure. Certainly then, even with fire, prevention is better than cure. It may be argued that we are sufficiently regimented and controlled already without adding restrictions on our right to do as we like, but it should be remembered that fire usually harms others besides the owner of the property in which it starts. It would, therefore, be practical and sound commonsense to insist that in all buildings for which construction licences are issued adequate steps must be taken for fire prevention. It is just as important to prevent material losses by fire, with the inevitable loss of life which accompanies it, as it is to ensure hygienic conditions. If adequate fire protection is provided in every building, there can be little doubt that the consequent reduction in the number of fires of all kinds would be most marked and the annual material and economic loss from this cause considerably reduced.

It must be clear that the best protection against major fire disasters would be the dispersion of our growing industries, but in this country if industries already established could be moved from the areas in which they have grown up for such economic reasons as climate, water or coal, quite apart from the frightful cost involved, it would need years and years of work, not only in actual construction but also in re-housing the working population in areas near the site of the new factories. Although future planning may take the need for distribution of industries into consideration, the removal of existing industries is impracticable. Apart from this, every factory built away from an industrial area means a reduction in the amount of arable land available and this would make us less self-supporting than we are already. This fact, that we are not adequately self-supporting in either food or raw materials means that we are bound to have large industries near our ports and elsewhere. We have, therefore, to accept the congestion in our towns and cities, but need not and indeed should not, accept with any complacency the inadequate steps taken to deal with the menace of fire.

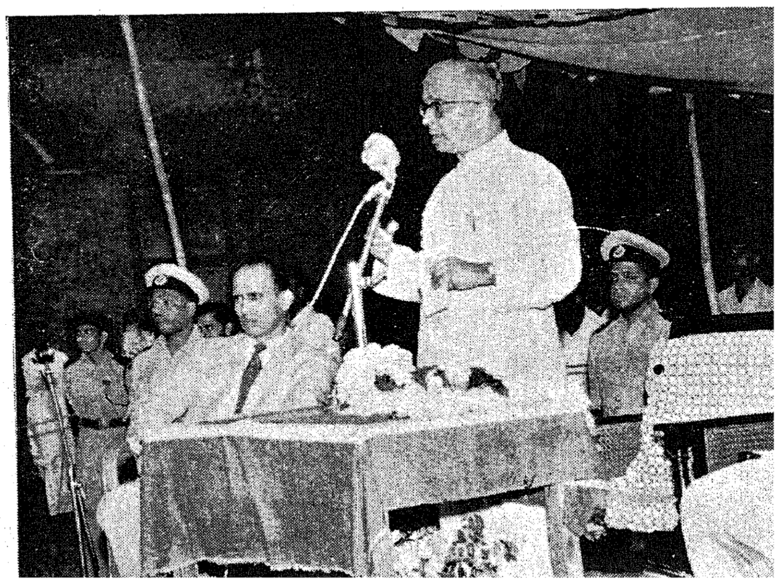
Is there a need for more local laws to reduce fire risks? Is it necessary to introduce local fire prevention legislation in addition to the existing provisions in the Madras City and Districts Municipal Act, the Madras District Boards Act, the Madras Village Panchayats Act and the Places of Public Resorts Act? The time is certainly appropriate to consider this question closely and to ask oneself whether, and if so, to what extent, such legislation is desirable. The present legislation dealing with fire prevention is, it must be admitted, incomplete and in many respects anomalous. It would unquestionably be of great help to the administrators of law if the present legislation could be incorporated into one Fire Prevention Act. It would also immensely help in obtaining reasonably uniform national standards if the Fire Authorities were made responsible for the administration of such an Act. In the United States of America where fire prevention legislation is comprehensive, the scope of fire legislation is limited to that which is considered reasonable; the general public interest is balanced against the interest of the individual wherever there may be a conflict of interest and particularly where fire protection in the public interest may call for expenditure beyond what the individual may consider essential in his own interest. Even in Japan anti-fire regulations are laid down; their Building Standard Act attaches particular importance to fire protection of buildings. Their city-centres are designated as semi-fire-limit-zones where the use of unprotected wood is entirely prohibited. Apart from this fire-protection-zones are designated in the central parts of their six largest cities where wooden buildings are prohibited and only ferro-concrete or other fire-proof buildings are permitted. There is thus a steady growth in the building of fire-resisting dwellings in Japan and if the present trend continues Japan is bound to lose its reputation of high inflammability in the same way as London which is to-day fire-resistant, with many magnificent fire-proof buildings, three centuries after the prohibition of timber buildings following the Great Fire of London in 1666!

After all, what does fire protection in an ordinary home cost? In a cost analysis covering an average home in England it is found that the cost for services provided in respect of Hot and Cold water installation works out to sh. 3 and 4 d., per square foot, sanitary fittings sh. 1 and 4 d., heating and ventilation sh. 3 and 2 d., gas installation sh. 1, electrical installation sh. 1 and 11¼ d., and fire fighting equipment only ¾ d.! The fire-fighting equipment at the home under review consisted of adequate equipments. When figures are presented in this way, the very small relative cost of fire-safety can be clearly seen.

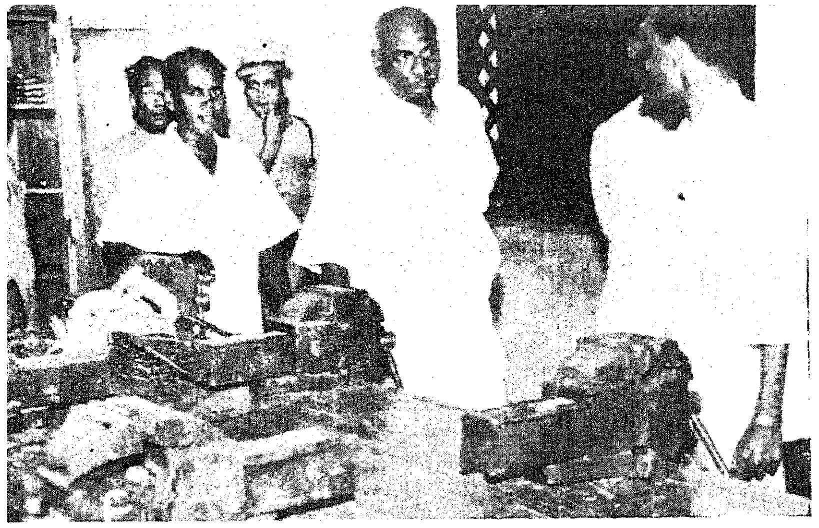
The following facts may interest you: In the last decade more than 100,000 persons were killed and many more burned or disfigured in the United States of America by fire; each year there are 600,000 building fires; every day there are about 850 home fires, 34 deaths by fire, 88 factory fires, 9 church fires, 8 school fires and 4 hospital fires—every day! Year by year, the incidence of fire takes an ever-increasing toll of the

(Continued on page 29)

Dr. U. Krishna Rao, Speaker, Legislative Assembly, addressing a meeting during the Fire Prevention Week Celebrations in Madras on 3rd November 1958.

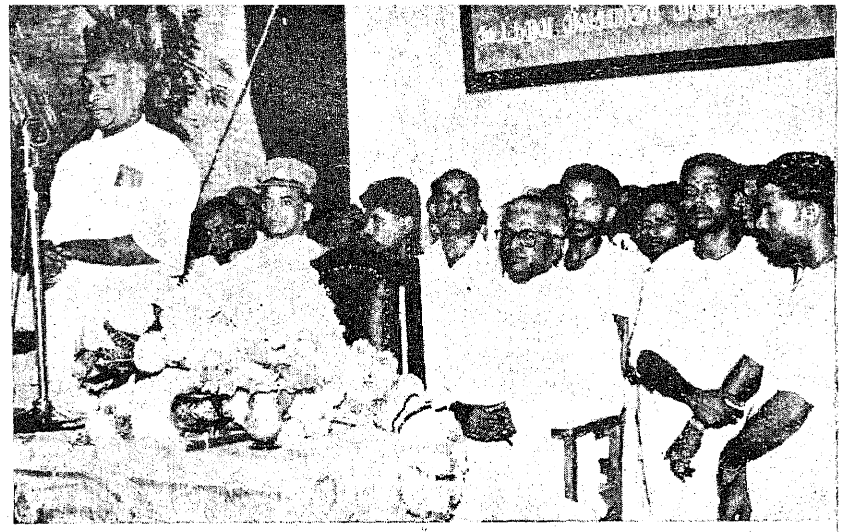


CHIEF MINISTER IN THE TIRUNELVELI DISTRICT



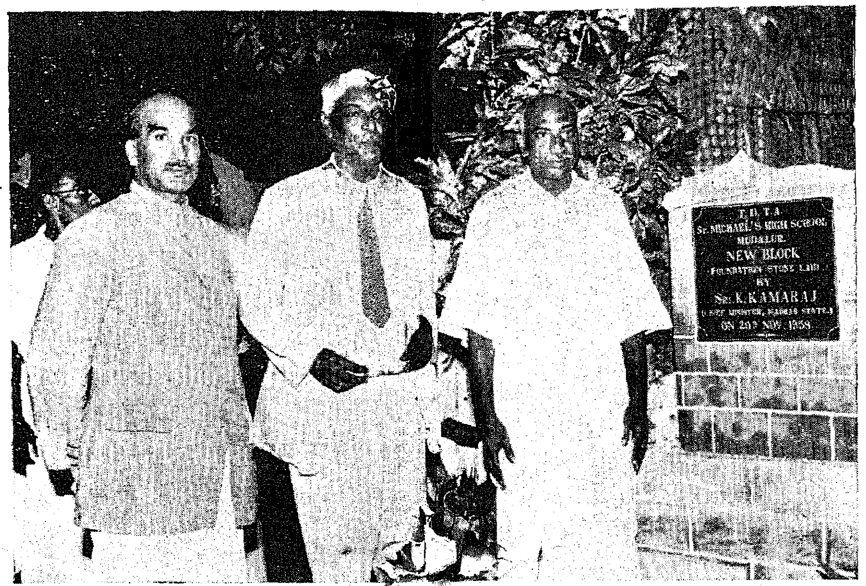
(1) *The Chief Minister inaugurated an Industrial Training Centre at Tiruchendur . . .*

(2) . . . *distributed Pattas to Harijans at Cheranmahadevi . . .*



(3) . . . *inaugurated the Chintamaniperi Co-operative Tenants Farming Society . . .*

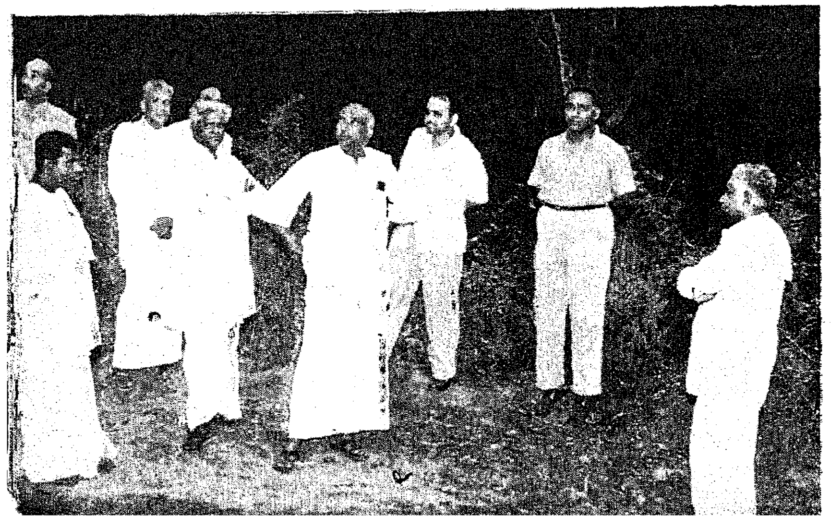
(4) . . . *a Social Welfare Centre at Brahmadesam . . .*



(5) . . . *laid the Foundation Stone for new block of school building at Mudalur . . .*

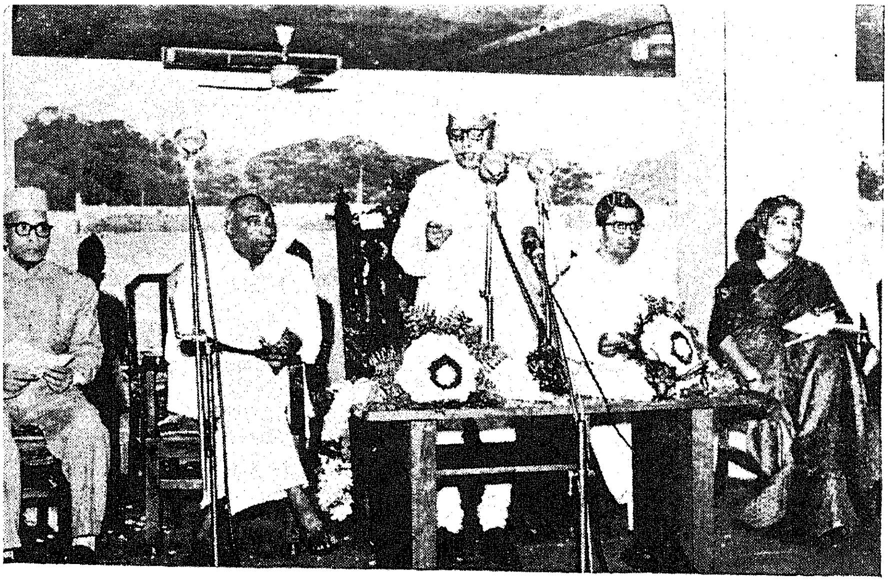
(6) . . . *and addressed the Beedi Workers' Conference at Pavoor.*

(7) *Visited the Kodaimadi Forest . . .*



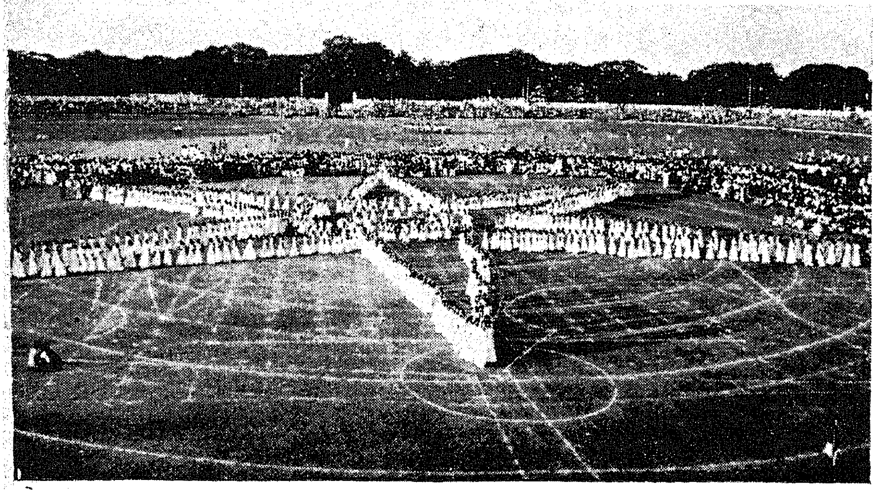
(8) . . . *the Power-house at Papanasam and . . .*

(9) . . . *looking with interest some of the articles produced at the Social Welfare Centre at Brahmadesam.*

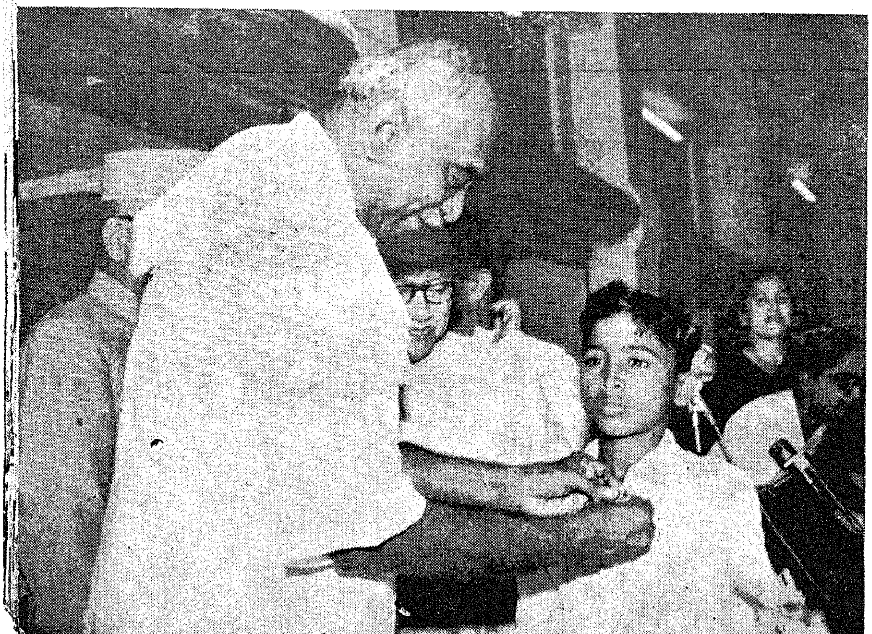


The Governor, Shri Bishnuram Medhi, inaugurated the Children's Week at the Corporation Stadium on 14th November 1958. Photo shows the Chief Minister, the Ministers for Finance and Revenue and the Mayor at the Function.

CELEBRATION OF THE IN THE



One of the items in the pageant.

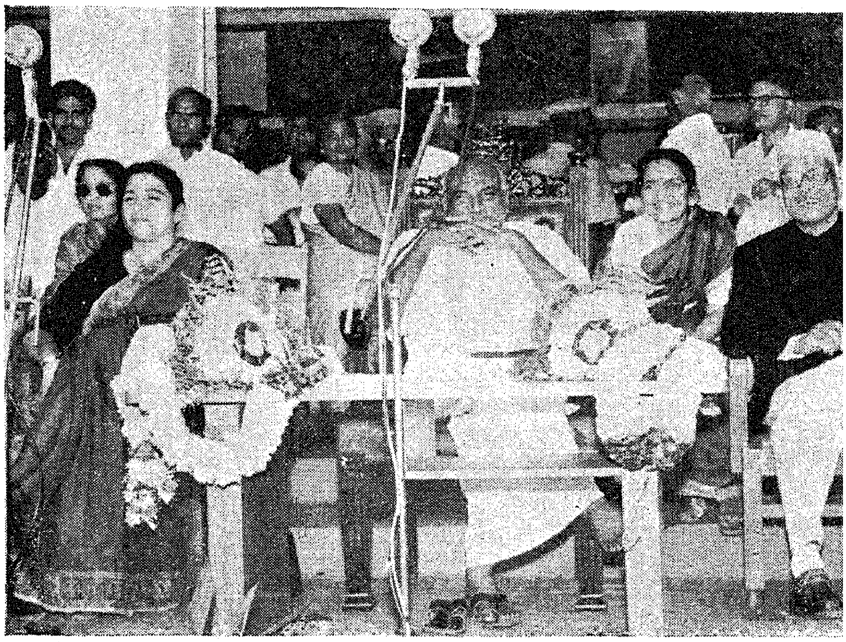


Sri Satyanarayana, aged 11, of the Board High School, Poonamallee was awarded the National award for Heroism at the function in the Stadium on 14th November 1958, by the Chief Minister.

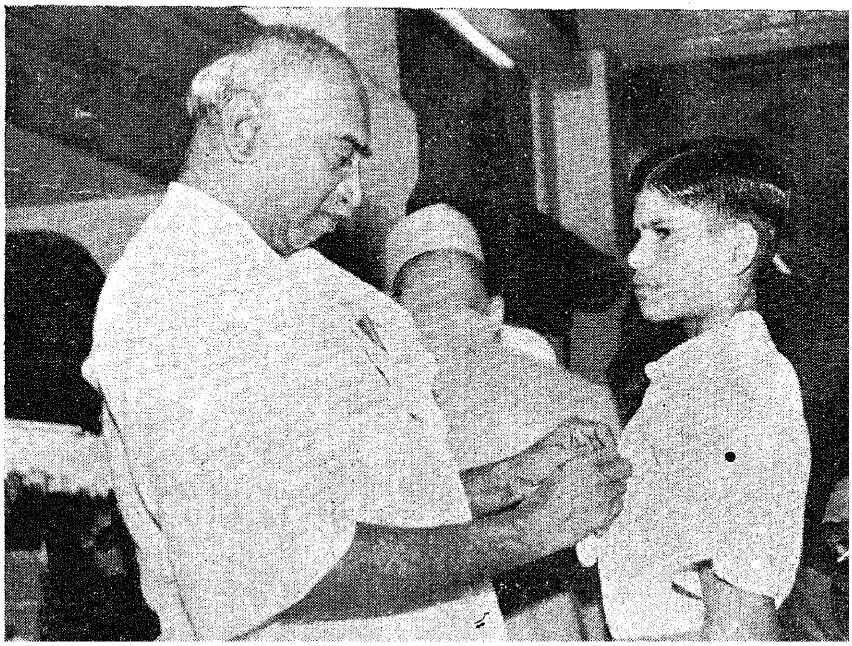
The Governo entertained 500 children from various orphanages in the City to a tea party on 11th November 1958 at Raj Bavan, Guindy. The Governor 's seen being greeted by the children.

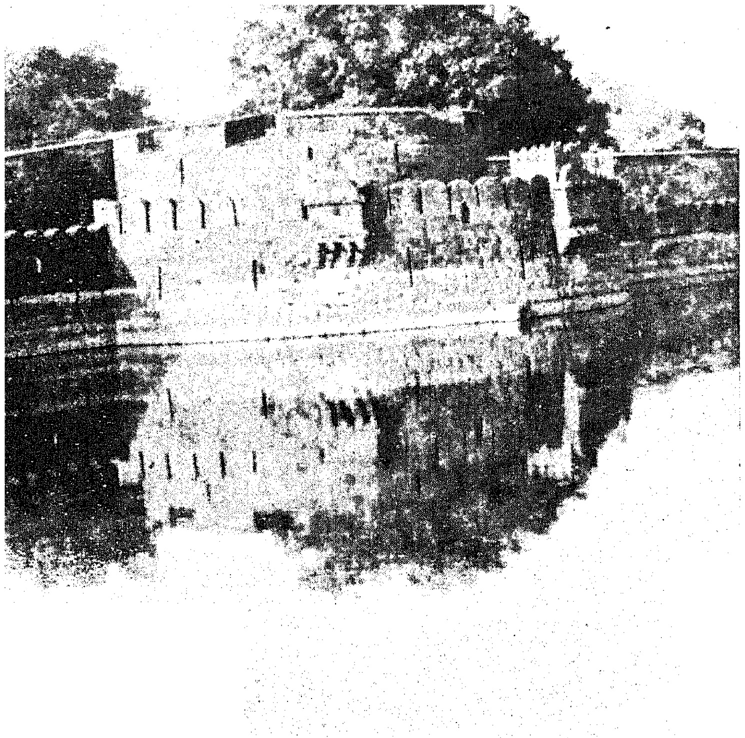
CHILDREN'S WEEK CITY

The Chi Minister, Sri K. Kamaraj, reviewed the Child's Parade and pageant at the Corporation Stadi on November 16th. Photo shows the Chief inister, Minister for Revenue and the May watching the pageant with interest.



Sri C. Meyyan of the Government Junior Certified ol, Tanjore, was also awarded the National d for Heroism.





Fish Production in Fort Moat in Vellore Town

SRI P. I. CHACKO

AND

SRI D. SUNDARARAJAN,

Department of Fisheries

The moat around the Fort at Vellore.

Introduction.

The Fort moat in Vellore Town, North Arcot district, is being utilized for fish culture by the State Fisheries Department since 1919. The primary objects are (1) rearing of suitable mosquito larvicidal fishes to prevent breeding of mosquitœs and (2) production of table fishes for supply to the inhabitants of the town. Both these objects have been achieved successfully; and consequently the local authorities have recently decided to place the moat under the full control of the Fisheries Department.

Exploitation of fishery.

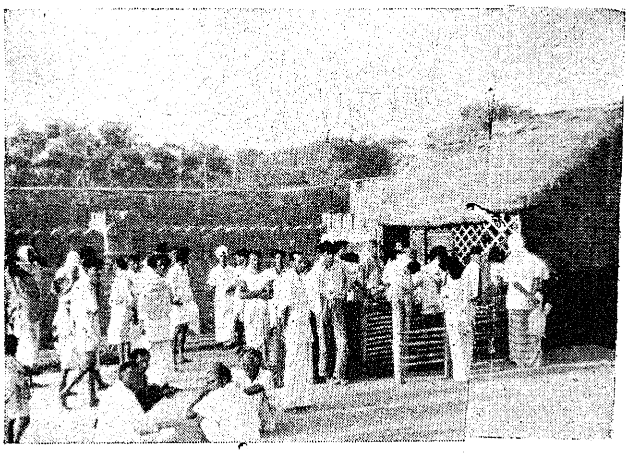
Since recent years fish cultural operations in the moat have been intensified to such an extent that the fishery is now being exploited daily by about 150 fishermen who are permitted to capture fish from this waterspread on taking a nominal licence from the Department at the following rates :—

Kind of tackle.	*Licence fee* per month.		per year.	
	RS.	nP.	RS.	nP.
Cast net	1	00	10	00
Gill net	2	00	20	00
Drag net	3	00	30	00
Katch valai	0	50	5	00
Rod and line with one hook.	0	50	5	00
English rod and line with reels.	0	50	5	00

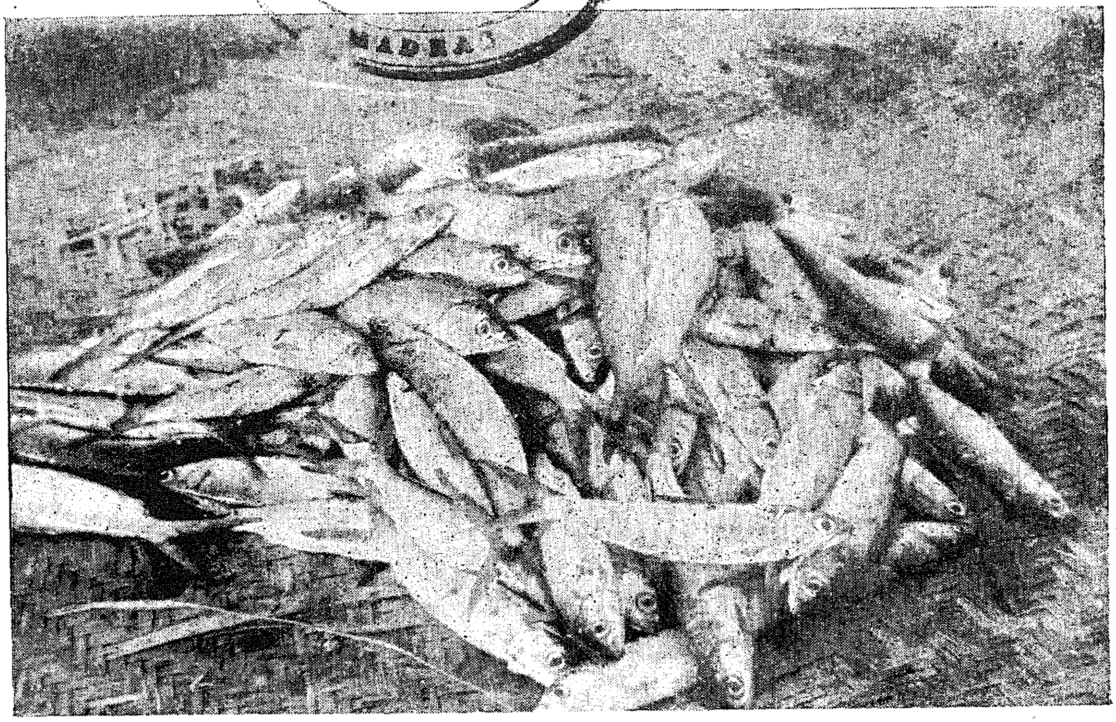
The licensees have to share their catches with the Department by giving two-thirds by weight in the case of varieties like the major indigenous carps, mirror carp, gourami, chanos, mullets, tarpon, large murrels and eels, and 50 per cent in the cas f pearl-spot, goby, small murrels, catfishes, featherbacks and small carps. Size-limits for certain specie are also prescribed from time to time to ensure the growth and thriving.

Fish production.

In the year, April 1957 to March 195 a total quantity of 22,931 lb. of fish were capture rom the two sections of the moat having a watersad area of 15 acres. The rate of production is us about 1,528·7 lb. per acre of water. The revenue alized by the Department by sale of its share of th atches is Rs. 6,977·76 nP. besides obtaining Rs. ·50 nP. towards licence fees and Rs. 880 towards le of right



The market at the Fort

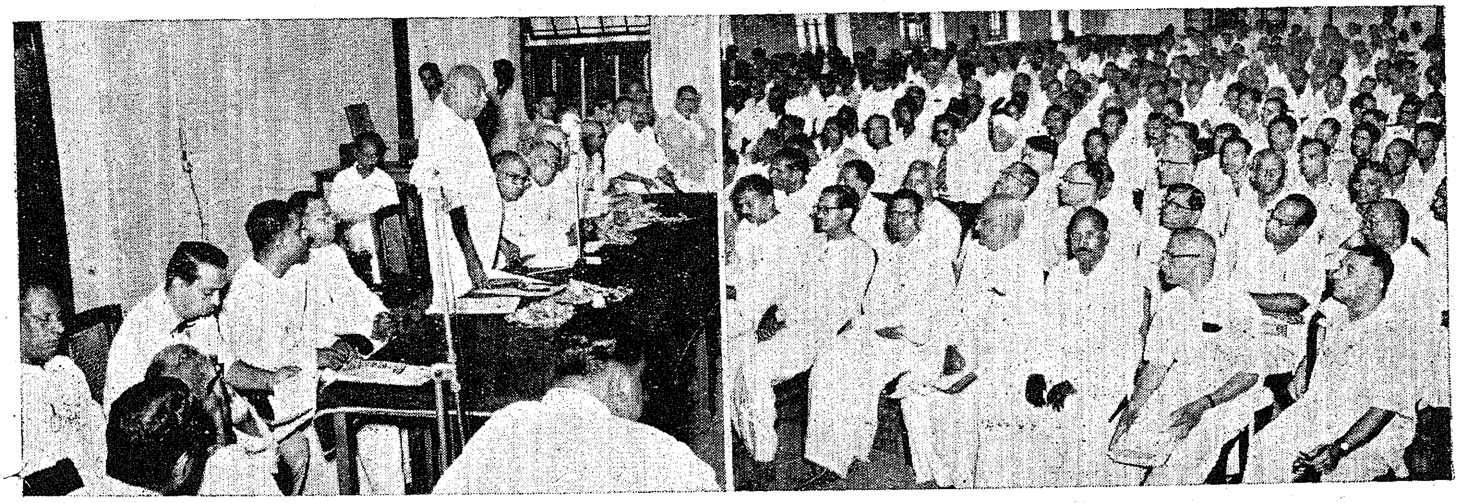


Part of the catch.

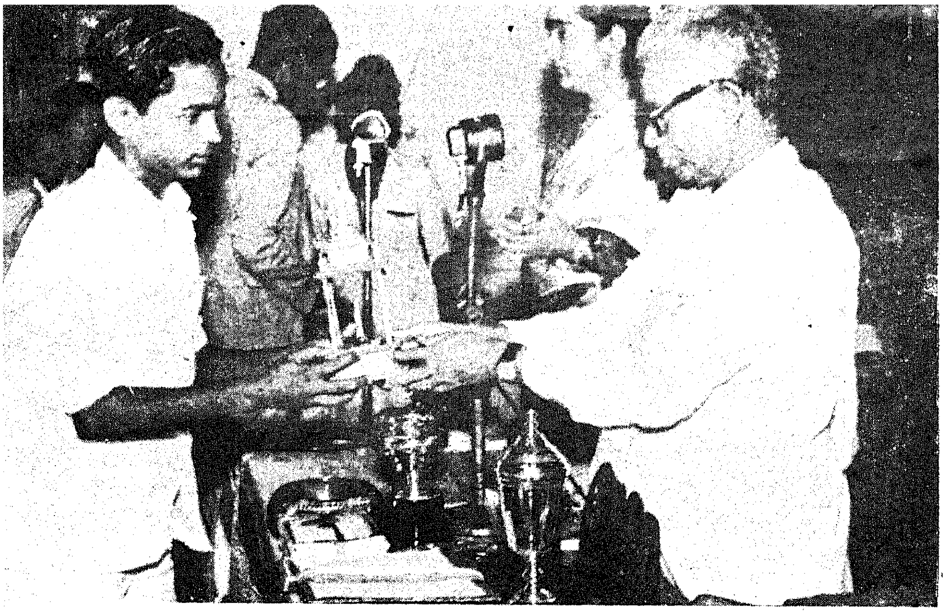
for cutting grass growing along the dry margins. The constant presence of algal blooms is responsible for the satisfactory growth of fishes stocked in the moat; and the milk-fish (chanos), a saltwater species acclimatizable to freshwater, contributes to a large portion of the fishery. Specimens of catla weighing 11 lb. and of mirror carp weighing 13-17 lb. have also been obtained. The Bengal carps, mrigal and rohu, have attained 20 and 21 inches in size and 4¼ and 6¾ lb. in weight respectively. The fish production during the previous year are: 1952-53—15,535 lb.; 1953-54—27,037 lb.; 1954-55—12,807 lb.; 1955-56—16,561 lb. and 1956-57—11,985 lb.

Practical results.

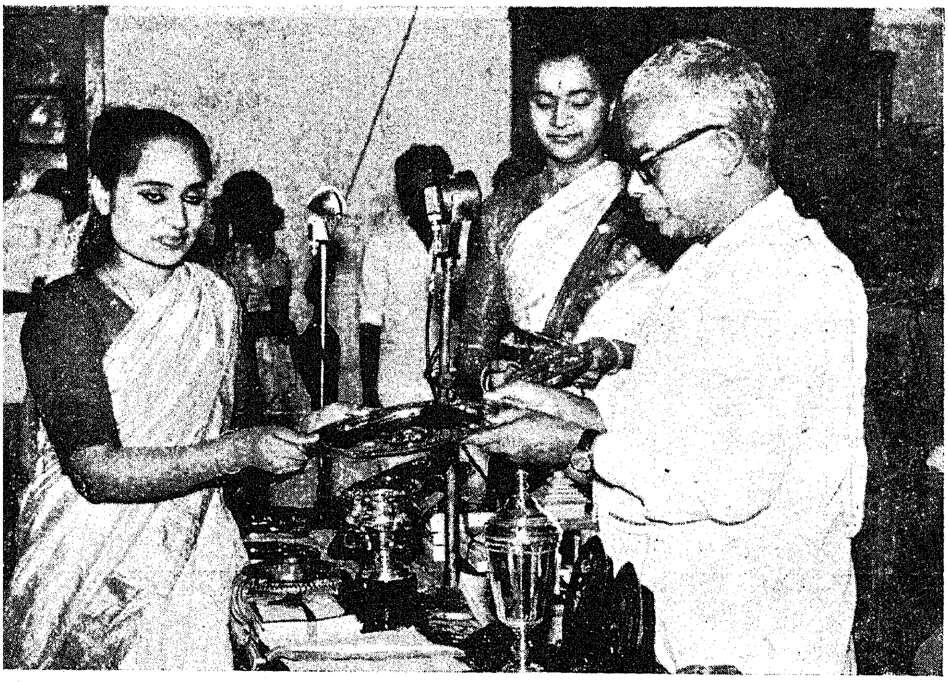
This is an example of profitable utilization of an old and neglected fort moat for production of protein-food for supply to the people of inland areas, for giving employment and fair earnings to inland fishermen, and for biological control of mosquito breeding.



The first conference of the representatives of Co-operative Agricultural Banks in the State was inaugurated on 16th November 1958 at Pachayappa's College by the Chief Minister, Sri K. Kamaraj.



In connection with the Children's Week, a play festival was conducted by the Madras Branch of the All-India Child Welfare Council at the Children's theatre. The prize for expert presentation of National anthem went to the Sri Sankaralinga Nadar School. The Minister for Home is seen presenting the prize.



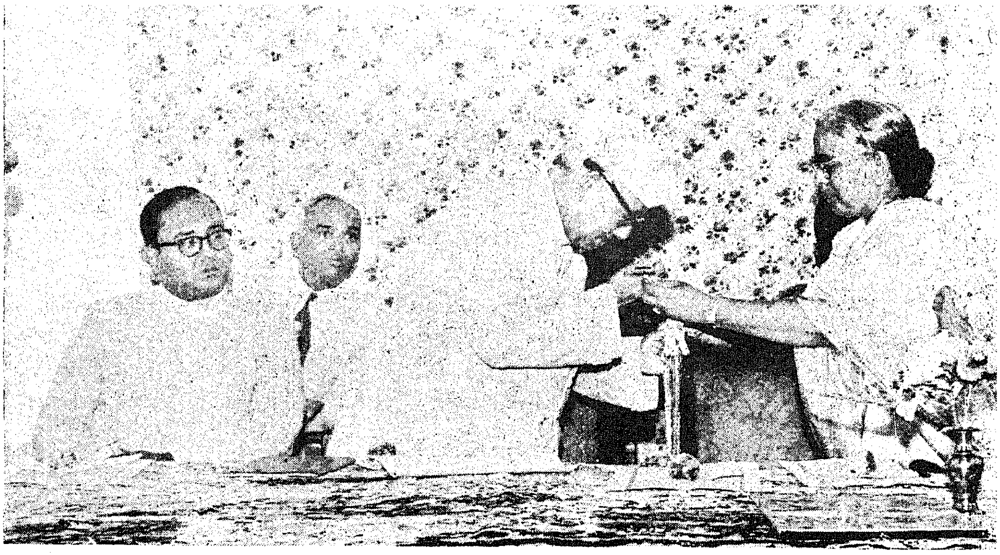
PLAY FESTIVAL IN THE CITY

The Prize for the best play went to the Presidency Girls' High School.

The Prize Play.

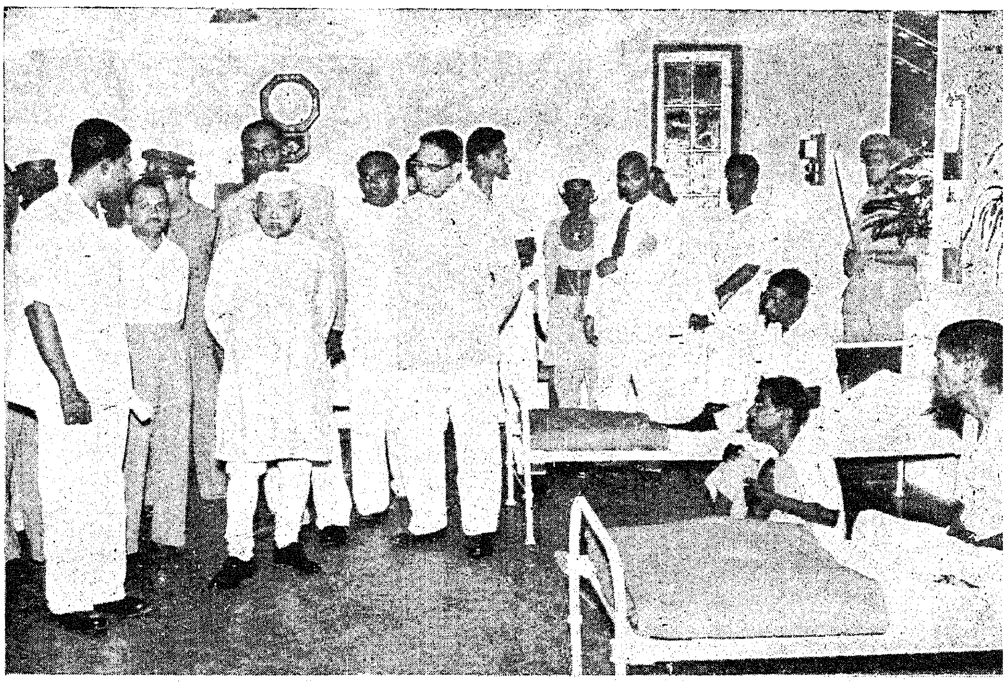
The Governor, Sri Bishnuram Medhi, was given a reception by the Municipal Council of Chingleput during his tour of the district. The Governor is seen receiving the garland from Mrs. Vedachalam, the Chairman.

CONNEMARA PUBLIC LIBRARY
15 JAN 1959
MADRAS

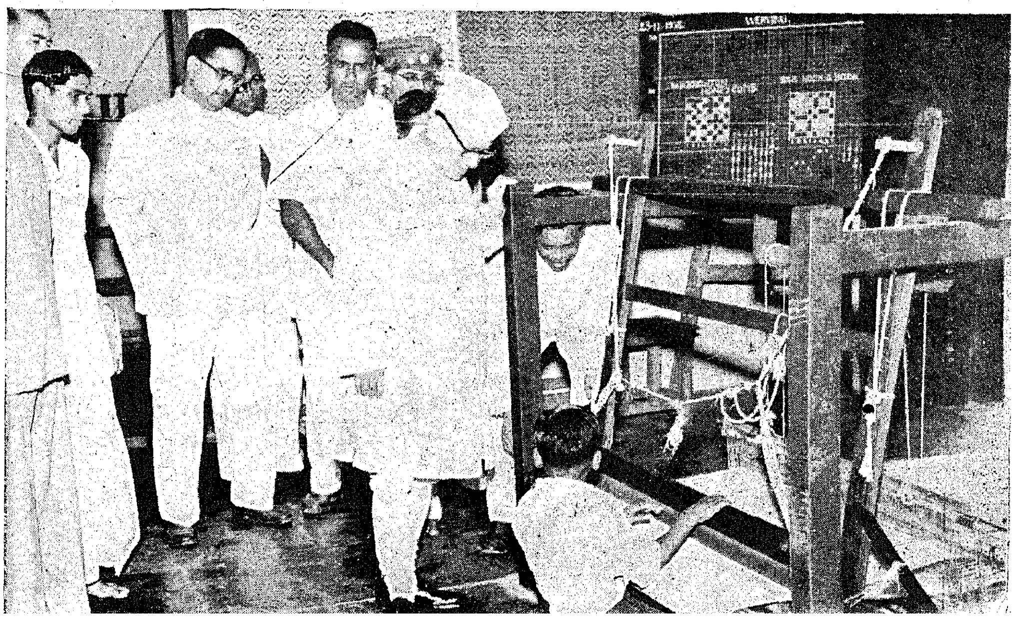


THE GOVERNOR AT CHINGLEPUT

The Governor paid a visit to the Leprosy Research Station at Thirumani, in the course of his tour of the Chingleput district.



The Governor at the Certified School for Boys at Chingleput.



Progress of Plan Schemes

The State Development Committee which met in the Cabinet Room, Secretariat, on 9th December 1958, with Sri K. Kamaraj, Chief Minister presiding, reviewed the progress of the Second Five-Year Plan Schemes in the State for the quarter ended 30th September 1958 and gave a broad indications of the allotments likely to be made for the next financial year under each head of development. All the Ministers of the Cabinet except Sri R. Venkataraman who is abroad, attended the meeting.

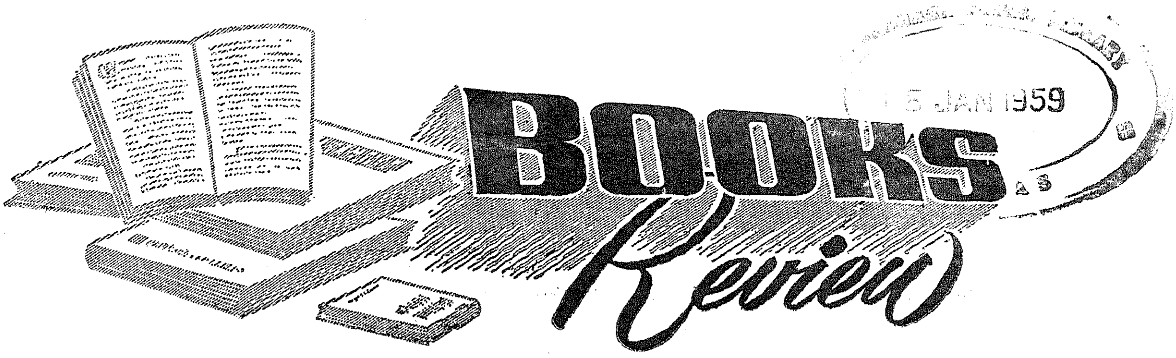
The Chief Engineer (Irrigation) indicated at the meeting that the Vidur Reservoir Project is likely to be completed by March 1959 while Kattalai and Pullambadi Canal Schemes may be completed by July 1959. It was elicited that excavations in connection with the Neyyar II Stage Scheme in Kanyakumari district are fast progressing. The levels of the canals in Madras State and Kerala State have been decided upon in close collaboration between the engineers of two States and it was said that there was co-ordination between the officials of the two States even in reference to the pace of excavation of the canals on both sides. The Chief Engineer was told that the required funds could be made available in connection with the Parambikulam Reservoir Project during the next year. The Committee was informed that work to the tune of rupees one crore could be carried out on this project during 1959–60. The Committee made close enquiries as to the utilisation of irrigation facilities under the major and medium irrigation projects. By the end of the current year a total area of about 237,000 acres will be thrown open for irrigation under the Second Five-Year Plan Schemes, it was reported. Only in the case of Sathanur Project Ayacut, it was found that there was a slight resistance on the part of the ryots in utilising the waters for new irrigation. This resistance, it was reported, was due to the fact that the new ayacut calls for levelling of ground and such other initial expenditure. The feasibility of advancing loans or such other assistance is to be examined. It was then suggested that a special development team may be employed for the expansion of agriculture under this project. In general terms the Committee suggested that everything possible should be done to fully utilise the irrigation potential created. The Committee was informed that by the end of 1958–59 a sum of about Rs. 8·14 crores would have been spent on irrigation projects in this State, out of a total provision of Rs. 12·33 crores for the five-year period.

While reviewing the progress of Community Development Schemes, the Committee noted with satisfaction that people's contribution in terms of money value for the prosecution of these schemes during the quarter ended 30th September 1958 in respect of 110 blocks came to Rs. 15·47 lakhs. The Rural Development Projects Department showed considerable improvement in the matter of construction of latrines in the villages and the State Development Committee indicated that in future the pattern of these latrines may be such as to facilitate the use of nightsoil as compost. In general terms, the Committee suggested that preparation of nightsoil compost should be undertaken at the village level. In the construction of village drains also, the progress during the quarter was impressive and the Committee directed that in future village drains should be undertaken only after preparation of a master plan for the entire village. The Committee also urged a closer co-ordination between the block staff and the department concerned in the matters of poultry development and livestock improvement schemes in the block development areas. The Committee was of the view that the village Housing Project has not made sufficient headway in the State and recommended that the objectives of the scheme be explained in proper terms in villages. The Committee came across some schemes of road development which have been stagnating mainly because the Municipalities concerned have not paid their contribution ; the Committee therefore required the departments to examine the feasibility of bringing forward a Bill empowering the Government to carry out such essential works for which municipal contribution is obligatory under existing laws, and later recover the money from the municipalities concerned. While examining the Khadi Development Schemes in the State, the Committee was informed that under the Government Khadi Schemes alone about 110,000 spinners and 3,000 weavers were employed. The Committee was informed that 4,000 spinners were working on Ambar Charkas in the State at present.

The Committee noted that the various schemes of the Industries Department were progressing satisfactorily. As a matter of fact the sale of the products of the various schemes has assumed the proportions of a problem. The emporium opened in the City was reported to be doing brisk business in the products, to the tune of about Rs. 500 per day. The Committee felt that the Railways, Army and other purchasing agencies of the Government of India should be approached to allocate a portion of their contracts for the industrial units of the State.

The midday meals schemes in the elementary schools was found to be gaining in popularity and it was elicited that at present there are 10,750 midday meals centres in the State. The Education Department indicated that expenditure on this scheme on Government account alone would come to Rs. 60 lakhs next year. In view of the difficult employment situation among persons educated up to the school final standard, the Committee called upon the Industries Department to increase the intake in the various industrial schools. The present intake appears to be around 10,000 per year, and the department was asked to increase the potential so that 12,000 students could be taken in.

The Committee also suggested that more importance should be given next year for the science subjects in the secondary schools.



15 JAN 1959

* CAREER PAMPHLETS

"Even before the announcement of examination results the youth of the country passing out of schools is faced with the problem of choosing a suitable career. Employment opportunities in clerical occupations being extremely few, when related to the demand, information regarding courses of training leading to gainful employment will prove useful. This pamphlet presents information which has been collected by the Occupational Information Unit of the Directorate-General of Resettlement and Employment. If it serves to check even a fraction of the school-leavers from drifting aimlessly towards infructuous degree courses in Arts subjects, its purpose would be fulfilled. More detailed information regarding particular courses suggested in this pamphlet can be obtained from the authorities concerned. The nearest Employment Exchange may also be able to assist in the matter."

With the above preface the Government of India has introduced one of several valuable pamphlets entitled *Guide to Careers* popularly known as *Career Pamphlets*. Each of these pamphlets deals with an occupation and gives comprehensive information about that particular occupation. Of topical interest is the fact that priority has been given to the shortage categories of occupations.

Each pamphlet begins with a general description of the occupation dealt with. It then discusses the personal qualities and the qualification required for the job facilities available and expenses involved, for training where necessary. Each pamphlet furnishes information on opportunities for specialization and advanced training, employment outlook, salaries offered for trained personnel and prospects for advancement. They also contain directions as to the authorities to be contacted for further information.

The emphasis in vocational guidance to-day is on assisting individuals in their efforts to choose occupations, or to prepare themselves for entrance into them for a successful career. Due to a peculiar characteristic of the youth in general, most of the young men leaving school to-day are hesitant to admit their inability to choose their own future without any advice. On the other hand, they react favourably to being assisted in gathering information and in choosing their vocations largely on their own efforts.

Vocational guidance in India is a difficult undertaking since, among other things, it deals with a rapidly-changing country. Several occupations exist to-day, each varying more or less in its requirements for entrance and for success from all others. But information on the various careers open to the youth of the country has been notably lacking in the past. The need for such information cannot be over-emphasized and the publication of these pamphlets by the Government of India has provided an answer to an important aspect of the dilemma confronting and school-leavers would certainly go a long way in providing the much needed information to make for their future life, realistic plans which are in consonance with the employment opportunities available in the country.

The need is also growing recently for educational institutions to assist students in choosing suitable occupations, a step that helps to make education effective in social life. These pamphlets would be a valuable collection of reference material in the libraries of every institution.

To the individual who is embarking on new careers these pamphlets obtainable at the Employment Offices at six naye Paise each would be of immeasurable value.

*GUIDE TO CAREERS—*Career pamphlets published by the Directorate-General of Resettlement and Employment, Ministry of Labour, Government of India, New Delhi (copies available at all the Employment Exchanges; price 6 naye Paise each).*

THE STENOGRAPHERS' GUILD SOUVENIR 1958.

The Stenographers' Guild has brought out a pleasant souvenir by way of focussing attention on its record of work. Messages from Ministers and men of public affairs highlighting the endeavours of the Guild in popularising the art of the Stenographer, find a prominent place in the souvenir. Rightly the article of Peter Pitman, the great-grandson of the shorthand pioneer Sir Isaac Pitman, is given pride of place in the articles section. It is followed by articles by other shorthand practitioners who have made good. The emphasis is on speed and there is much wholesome advice on how it can be achieved with efficiency. Stress is also laid on the need to develop accuracy of expression and precision so that vernacular stenography may progress on sound lines. On the whole, this souvenir contains informative and enlightening fare.

Science ON THE MARCH

India Builds its First 2-Seater Trainer Glider

The fabrication of a 2-seater trainer glider, called TS-2, by the Technical Centre of the Directorate-General of Civil Aviation constitutes a landmark in the development of æronautical research in India. The TS-2 is the first 2-seater glider of its kind to be designed and constructed in India.

Another distinctive feature of this glider is that it has been constructed largely from indigenous materials. The spruce for the structure comes from the forests of Kulu. The plywood sheets of rosewood and white cedar for the wings and fuselage come from South India. The fabric for covering the wing and control surfaces comes from the looms of a Delhi cloth-mill. The only imported parts are the flight instruments, control cables and a few other gadgets.

In the designing of some of the important features of the TS-2, the major consideration has been its suitability for the atmospheric conditions peculiar to India.

The feasibility of manufacturing within the country low-cost gliders from locally obtained materials is bound to be of great help in popularising gliding as a sports activity in the country. Preceding the TS-2, the technical centre has already developed a series of glider and sailplane prototypes. Six single-seater gliders developed at the Centre are at present in use at various gliding stations in the country.

* * * *

Braille paper to be made in India

Success is reported in a series of laboratory trials conducted at Forest Research Institute at Dehra Dun to discover suitable indigenous raw material for the manufacture of braille paper in India. A process has been developed for the manufacture of this special type of paper from blue gum, which grows in abundance in the Nilgiri hills of South India.

India's entire requirement of braille paper, used for printing books and journals for the blind, is met by imports. The present consumption of braille paper in India is about three tons per year. Bulk of it is consumed by the Central Braille Press at Dehra Dun set up by the Ministry of Education.

Since the printing on this type of paper is carried out by embossing the characters of the alphabets, the paper has to possess certain special characteristics such as smooth surface and high tensile strength so that the dots and points produced as a result of embossing can withstand prolonged usage.

The paper produced at the Dehra Dun Institute conforms to those requirements. Printing tests on the samples of paper manufacture from blue gum carried out at the Central Braille Press have shown that all of them are suitable for braille printing. Arrangements are shortly to be made for large-scale manufacture of this paper.

* * * *

Manufacture of Glass Toys—a New Small Scale Industry

From West Bengal has come news of the birth of a new and promising small-scale industry. This is the manufacture of glass toys, particularly bird figures, in which various firms and small-scale industrial organizations in the State are getting interested. These toys and figures are very attractive and are likely to fetch a good market. The cost of production is low, and the industry does not require much capital investment. Moreover, when fully established, the industry will provide bright opportunities for employment of women and other moderately skilled labour.

The main difficulty in the development of this industry is the non-availability of trained workmen. The Regional Small Industries Service Institute at Calcutta has taken steps to remove this difficulty.

Experiments on the blowing of glass figures have been successfully conducted at the ceramics vans and laboratories of this Institute. A table blower who was given training is now able to make fairly good toys. Arrangements are under way to provide training to more people. With the availability of more trained people, it is hoped, this industry would be firmly established within a short period.

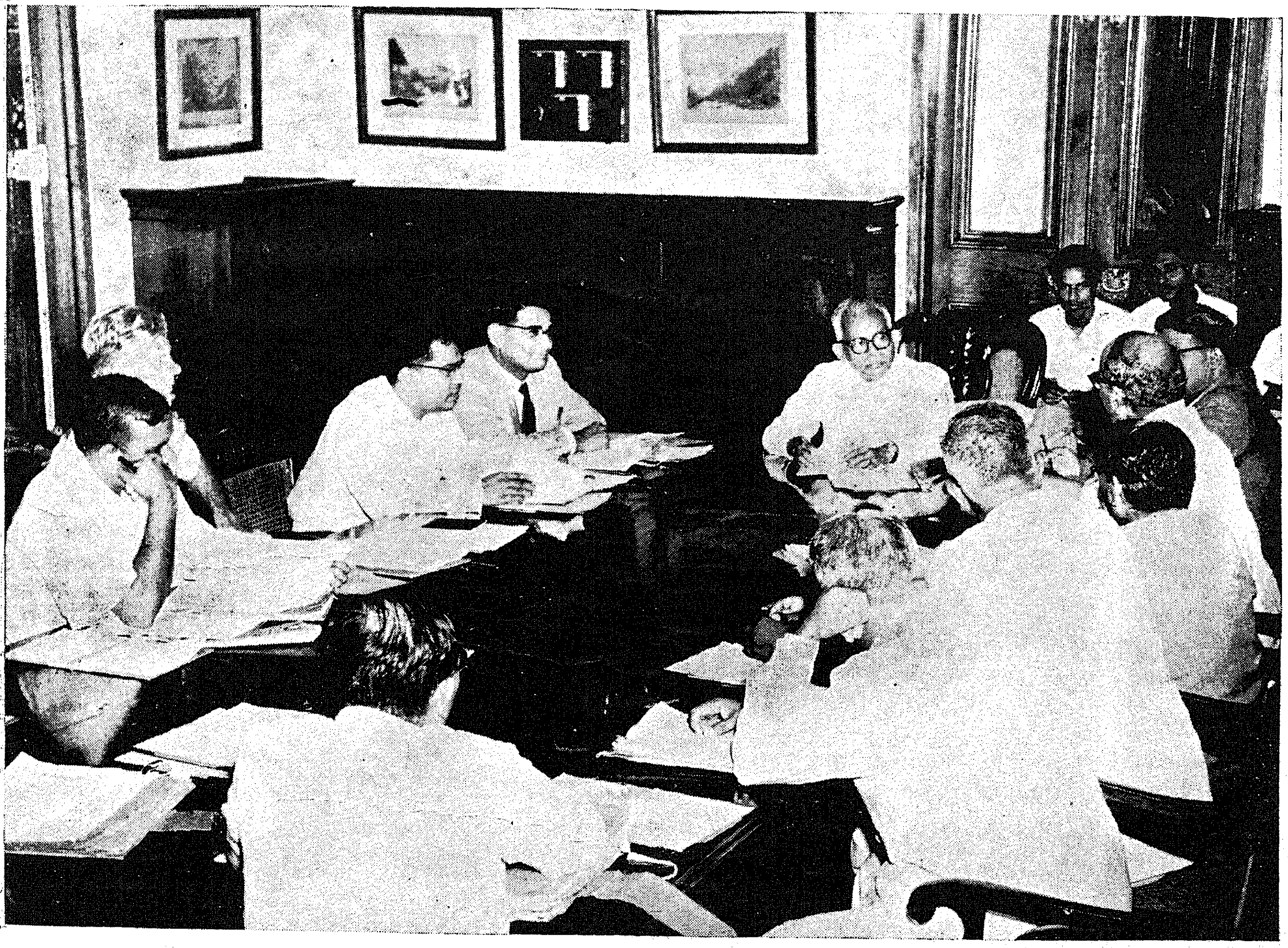
(Continued from page 17)

world's productive resources and proves a serious impediment to commercial and industrial activity and progress. Alarming as these fire-loss figures are in themselves, they grossly underestimate the true nature of the needless waste inflicted by fire, because the total cost extends far beyond the direct losses incurred to property, valuable equipments and vital materials. Halted production, interruption of business, disrupted distribution and unfulfilled contracts create a sequence of events in which indirect losses must be included in any proper assessment of the total loss involved. Appreciation of the full gravity of this loss potential should serve to illustrate the great responsibility that besets all those who are concerned with the protection of industrial premises, commercial undertakings, public buildings and the safety of the employees. It should, in no small manner, emphasize the urgent need for the adoption of greater fire prevention and fire protection measures, if fire disasters are to be curtailed and the national loss they cause restricted to a minimum.

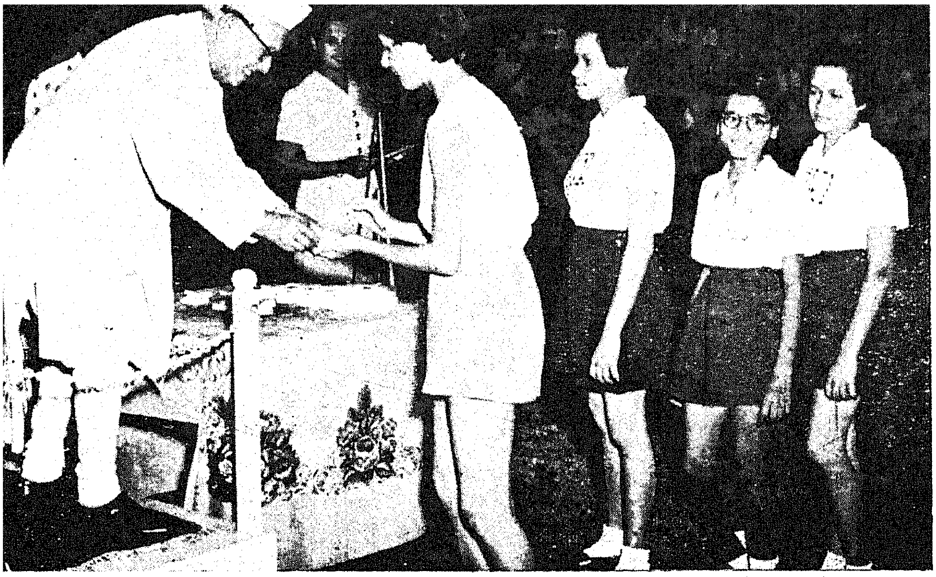
State Transport—October 1958

City Branch.—The fleet strength as on 31st October 1958 was 462. An average number of 340 buses plied every day and carried 11,377,774 passengers. A total of 1,170,933 miles was covered and Rs. 14,43,942 were collected.

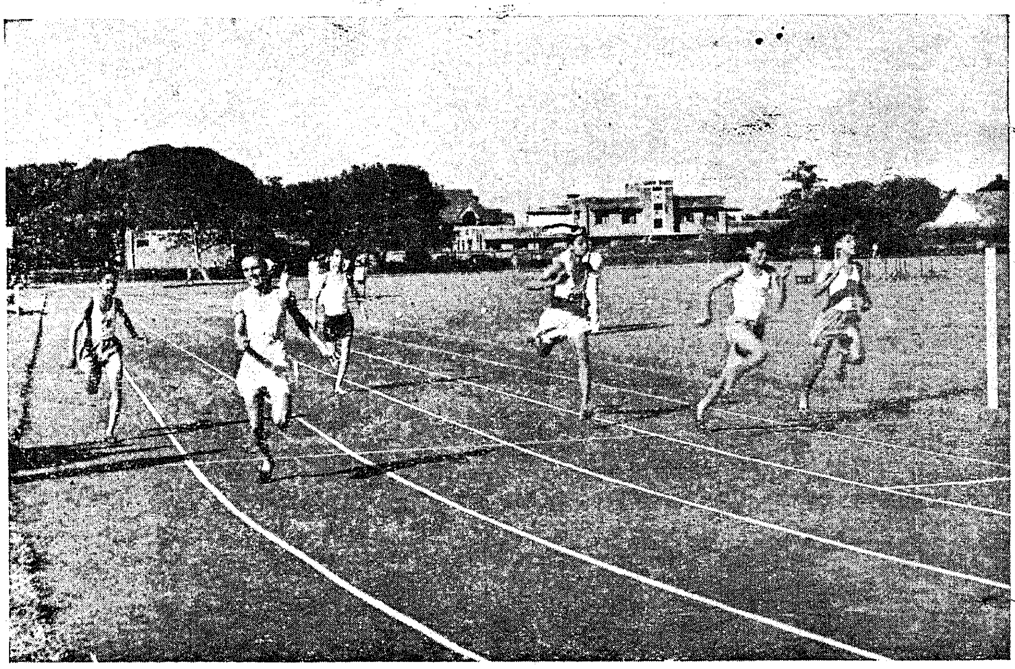
Kanyakumari Branch.—The fleet strength was 92 and 59 buses were put on the roads. 889,878 passengers were carried and Rs. 2,51,765·75 were collected. Specials brought in Rs. 1,043·29.



The 13th meeting of the State Soil Conversation Board was held on 1st December 1958 at the Secretariat, Sri M. Bhaktavatsalam, Minister for Agriculture, presided.

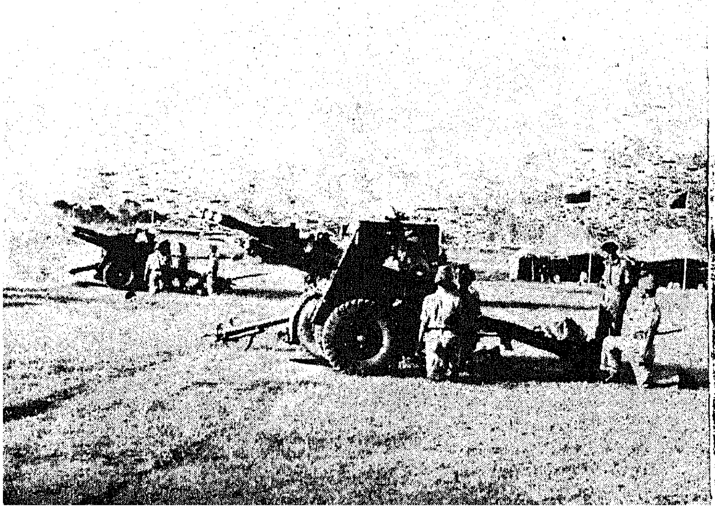


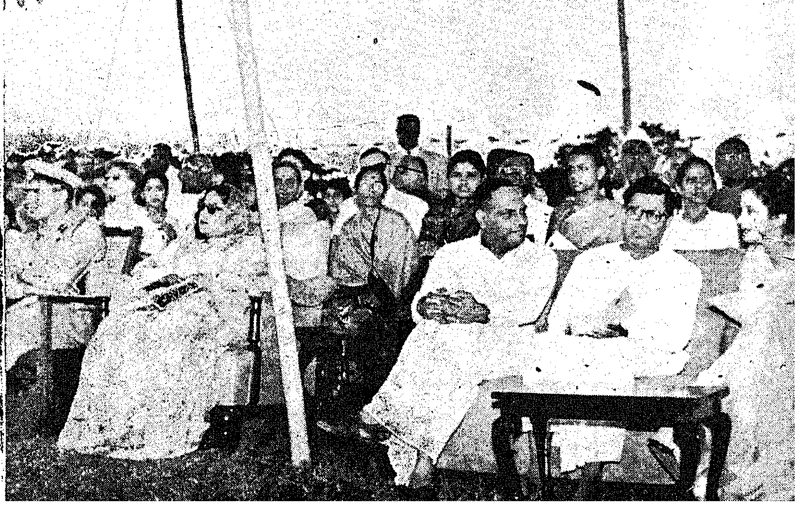
The prize winners receiving the prize from the Governor.

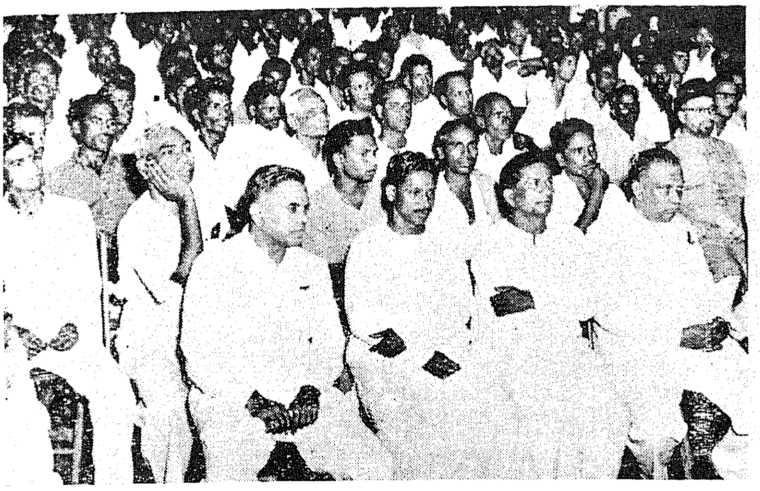


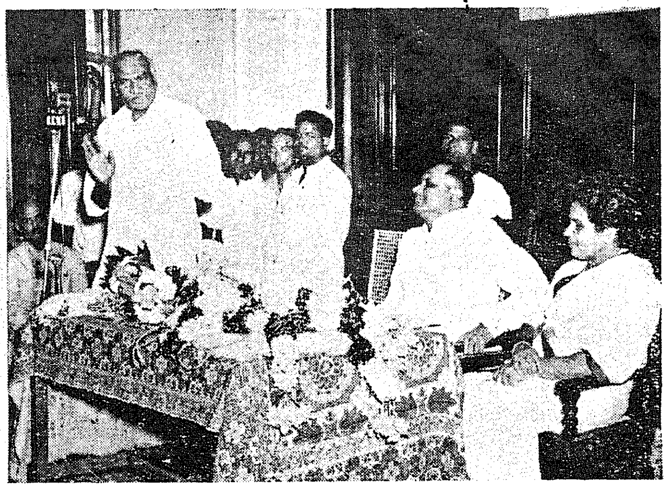
The 400 metres race in progress.

The Territorial Army Day was celebrated on 15th November 1958, Sri C. Subramaniam, Minister for Education, presiding. Photo shows the display of army manoeuvres.









The " Fishermen Co-operative Day " was inaugurated on 14th November 1958 at the courtyard of the Rajaji Hall by the Chief Minister, Sri K. Kamaraj, while Srimathi Lourdhammal Simon, Minister for Fisheries, presided.

Extension of Employees State Insurance Scheme to four more Centres

The Government have decided to extend the benefit provisions of the Employees' State Insurance Scheme to Udumalpet, Tiruppur, Salem and Mettur from November 30, 1958, to cover about 20,000 workers in nearly 100 factories.

In all these centres, full-fledged dispensaries have been set up. In Salem and Mettur, mobile medical vans have been provided, in addition, to cater to the needs of the insured, residing in outlying villages. In the Government Hospitals at Tiruppur, Udumalpet and Mettur and in the Government Headquarters Hospital, Salem, beds have been provided exclusively for insured patients.

Arrangements have been made with the Perundurai T.B. Sanatorium for in-patient treatment of insured persons suffering from the disease.

The Scheme will be formally inaugurated by the Home Minister at Salem and Mettur on November 30 and by the Finance Minister at Udumalpet and Tiruppur on December 2, 1958.

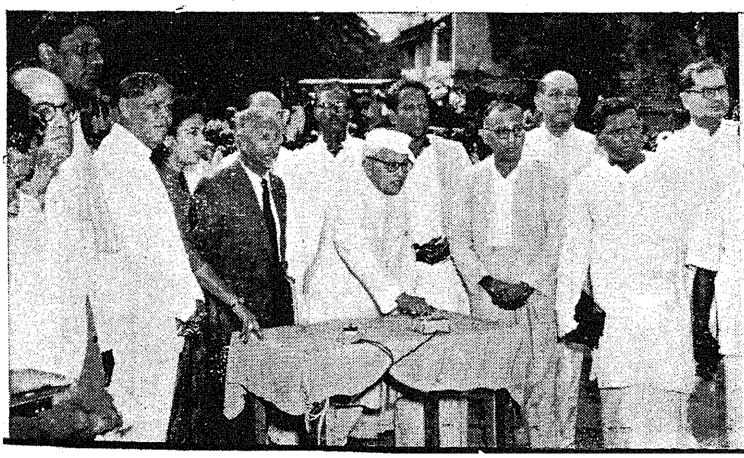
Under the Scheme the workers are entitled to medical aid in the State Insurance Dispensaries. Hospital treatment and domiciliary visits by the doctors will also be given whenever necessary. All medicines including costly drugs and special diagnosis and treatment such as X-rays, blood test, etc., are to be provided, whenever necessary. All the above medical facilities will be provided free of any charge to insured persons.

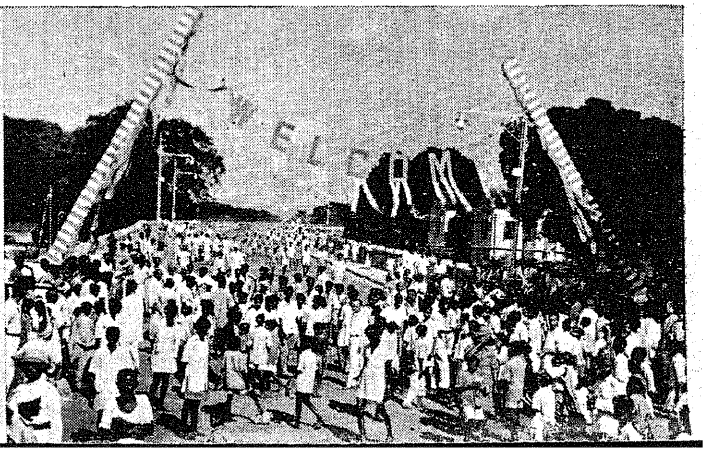
The cash benefits available to workers include benefit in case of (*a*) sickness, (*b*) maternity, (*c*) disablement and (*d*) death due to employment injury (for dependants). The daily rates of cash benefit works out at about 55 per cent of the average daily earnings of a worker.

For payment of cash benefits, the Employees' State Insurance Comporation have set up local offices at Salem and Tiruppur and sub-local offices at Mettur and Udumalpet.

At present the Scheme is in force in Coimbatore, Madras City including Vandalur and Ennore, Madurai, Ambasamudram and Tuticorin and covers about 150,000 workers.

The newly constructed over-bridge on the MacNicols Road was declared open on 26th November 1958 by the Governor Sri Bishnuram Medhi. The photo on right shows the cross beams going up as the Governor presses a button and the people walking on the bridge.





Fisheries on the March

Production and consumption of Fish in the State in 1957-58

DR. P. I. CHACKO, Fisheries Marketing Officer.

With its coastline of 620 miles and about 4 lakhs acres of inland waters, the Madras State has considerable scope for the development of the fishing industry. There are 2·40 lakhs of marine and 1 lakh of inland fisherfolk in the State, besides several traders and financiers depending on this industry. The Fisheries Department has a comprhensive programme for the development of the fishing industry based on a policy of survey and expansion of fishing areas, initiation and co-ordination of research, conservation and judicious exploitation, provision of efficient and modern crafts and gear, organisation of the fish trade on proper lines and improvement in the socio-economic condition of the fishermen. Besides, seventeen approved schemes are being implemented at a total cost of Rs. 95·14 lakhs for the Second Plan Period.

Sea Fisheries Development.

For increased production of sea fisheries efforts have been directed towards increasing the supply of fishery requisites such as boats, timber, yarn for nets, floats, fishing hooks, sail cloth, etc., to the fisherman at concessional rates and also towards the mechanisation of the fishing operations. While increased supply of fishery requisities has helped in keeping up the production by indigenous methods, the introduction of mechanised fishing has definitely increased the catches, the average increase per mechanised boat being two to three times than a catamaran. The department has therefore launched programmes for mechanisation of indigenous crafts, and introduction of improved designs of fishing boats. The F.A.O. Naval Architects working in the State have designed the Pablo boats and so far 42 such boats have been constructed and given to co-operatives and groups of fishermen on hire-purchase system together with the required sets of nylon nets and twine. New types of surf-landing mechanised craft are also being developed and are undergoing trials for replacing the conventional catamarans. A departmental boat-building yard is also being set up near Madras. With the help of a F.A.O. Fisheries Engineer exploratory fishing with different types of powered vessels and modern gear has resulted in the location of new fishing grounds in the inshore and offshore waters. To enable the fishermen to undertake mechanised fishing sixty fishermen candidates are being trained every year at two Training Centres at Nagapattinam and Tuticorin. Two F.A.O. Fishing Harbour Specialists have made a survey of the coast and have prepared plans for establishment of fishing harbours at Madras, Cuddalore and Nagapattinam.. The construction of an ice plant with capacity for a daily output of 5 tons and with storage facilities for 15 tons is progressing at Tuticorin. To facilitate quick transport of fish from important consuming centres without spoilage and thus to enable the fishermen to obtain better returns to their efforts the Department has been running nine motor vans by levying very nominal hire from the fishermen co-operatives. Besides, four vans and nine three-wheeler lambrettas have also been given under hire-purchase system. The existing fish markets are being improved and new markets are constructed for proper display and sale of fish to the public, by granting subsides to local bodies. Nineteen fish-curing yards are maintained by the department for supply of good quality salt to fish curers at subsidised rates. Fish meal plants are being set up at Nagapattinam, Tuticorin and Kanyakumari for profitably utilising surplus catches.

Inland Fisheries Development.

There is progressive increase in production of fish from inland waters with increased utilisation of suitable water-areas for fish culture. On an average about 3 crores of spawn, fry and fingerlings of economic species are collected every year from natural spawning and nursery areas and from departmental firsh farms and stocked in public waters to the maximum possible extent and their fisheries are rationally exploited. Development of fisheries in the reservoirs constructed in connection with river valley projects, offers large scope for additional production. The Mettur Dam Reservoir in Salem district, Poondi Reservoir in Chingleput district and Veeranam Reservoir in South Arcot direct have already been developed as productive fisheries. Similar work is being initiated in other reservoirs like Bhavanisagar, Amaravatisagar, Sathanur Reservoir, Krishnagiri Reservoir and Manimuthar Reservoir. With a view to encourage private enterprises in fish culture, the department maintains about seventy rural fishery demonstration centres to educate the public in piscicultural techniques and to induce them to take to fish rearing. There are also immense possibilities to develop brackish-water fish culture in estuaries and backwaters: and therefore the fisheries of Adyar and Vellar rivers are rationally exploited through a

system of licencing A large model brackish-water fish farm is also being constructed near Advar. Fishery legislation have also been enacted and enforced to the extent possible for protecting inland fisheries against destructive practices. Pollution of rivers by factory effluents is also prohibited to prevent large-scale mortality of natural fish stocks.

Aids to the fishing community.

The fisherman are the providers of a needed addition to our supply of food and are therefore assisted by the department to play their due share for increasing fish-production and distribution through the co-operative movement which is gaining popularity among them. So far 172 fishermen co-operative societies and five district co-operative federations have been organized. Through these co-operatives the fishermen have so far been given 6·5 lakhs rupees as long-term loans, medium-term loans and subsidy towards credit facilities for the elimination of middlemen, purchase of domestic as well as production requirements, construction of curing sheds, godowns and markets and for marketing of their produce.

Statistics of production.

In 1956–57 fish production in the State was 98·600 tons consisting of 60,000 tons of sea fishes and 38,600 tons of inland fishes. In 1957–58, the production increased to 107,300 tons, consisting of 67,000 tons of sea fishes and 40,300 tons of inland fishes. The percentage of increase was thus 11·66 in marine fisheries, 4·40 in inland fisheries and 8·80 in overall production.

The Chief varieties of Sea fish catches during the year were as follows:—

	TONS.
Ribbon fishes	12,060
Catfishes	6,030
Mullets	4,020
White-baits	3,350
Seer	2,680
Sardines	2,680
Sharks	2,680
Bigjawed Jumper	2,600
Jewfishes	2,010
Skates and rays	2,000
Prawns	1,880
Mackerels	1,340
Pomfrets	1,300
Tunnies	1,200
Flying fish	1,200
Bekti	1,150
Anchovies	1,100
Sabre fish	1,050
Hilsa	1,000
Thread-fins	1,000
Silver-bellies	250
Other miscellaneous varieties	14,420
	67,000

The kinds of fishes that constituted the inland catches were:—

	TONS.
Carps	14,500
Catfishes	8,000
Murrels	4,800
Prawns	3,200
Mullets	2,000
Eels	800
Hilsa	400
Other miscellaneous varieties	6,600
	40,300

Exports and imports.

Of 67,000 tons of sea fishes landed during the year, 26,600 tons were consumed in fresh condition in the Madras State itself and 400 tons of fresh fish were exported to other States like Andhra, Kerala and Mysore. The remaining 40,000 tons were cured and of these 21,140, 2,000 and 16,860 tons of cured fish were consumed in Madras State, exported to other States and exported to Ceylon respectively. The inland fish catches of 40,300 tons were mostly (40,060 tons) consumed in Madras State itself and only 240 tons were exported to other States. The import of marine and inland fish from Andhra, Kerala and Mysore States to Madras State was 2,500 and 10 tons respectively.

Per capita consumption.

Accounting for exports and imports, the quantity of fish that was available for consumption in Madras State was 90,310 tons. Sixty per cent of the thirty million population of the State consumed fish and the per capita consumption of fish was 11·3 lb. There was definite increase over the per capita consumption of 10·5 lb. in 1956–57. The All-India average is only 3·9 lb. According to experts the present level of fish production in the State has to be trebled to meet the minimum nutritional requirements of the fish-eating population of the State.

Deterrents to increased production.

The fishing industry differs from agriculture in that whereas agriculture can measure the availability of its resources, the fishing industry cannot —or at least cannot in the present state of our knowledge. Yet it is clear that more areas could be brought under exploitation and that even areas fished at present could be brought to yield more. But an increase is not possible at a rate commensurate with the expansion of nutritional demands due to a number of deterrents applying in varying degree in different fishery situations. The foremost of these in our State is that the incentive to produce and sell more is restrained by the low level at which the fishermen's need for food, shelter and clothing are satisfied. The fishermen's ambition is frustrated by lack of financial resources or of profitable outlets. It is well-known that fish production per unit effort in this State is low on account of the limitations of the fishing craft and gear employed and only seasonal activity in most places. No improvement can be possible with the present state of illiteracy, backward condition, poverty and indebtedness of the fishermen as a community which is also conservative and superstitious. The average fisherman depends on the middleman for supply of production as well as domestic requirements and has often to pledge his catch in advance. He has, therefore, to sell his catch cheaply and become almost enslaved to the middleman, who often owns the fishing craft and tackle. The fishing hamlets (kuppams) are isolated and not connected with public roads and therefore lack proper housing, drinking water, medical, maternity and child welfare facilities. The rehabilitation of the fishing community is thus confronted with several administrative and social problems of considerable magnitude. The Fisheries Department in collaboration with other departments is doing its utmost to improve the weakness in the economic background of the fishing industry of this State.

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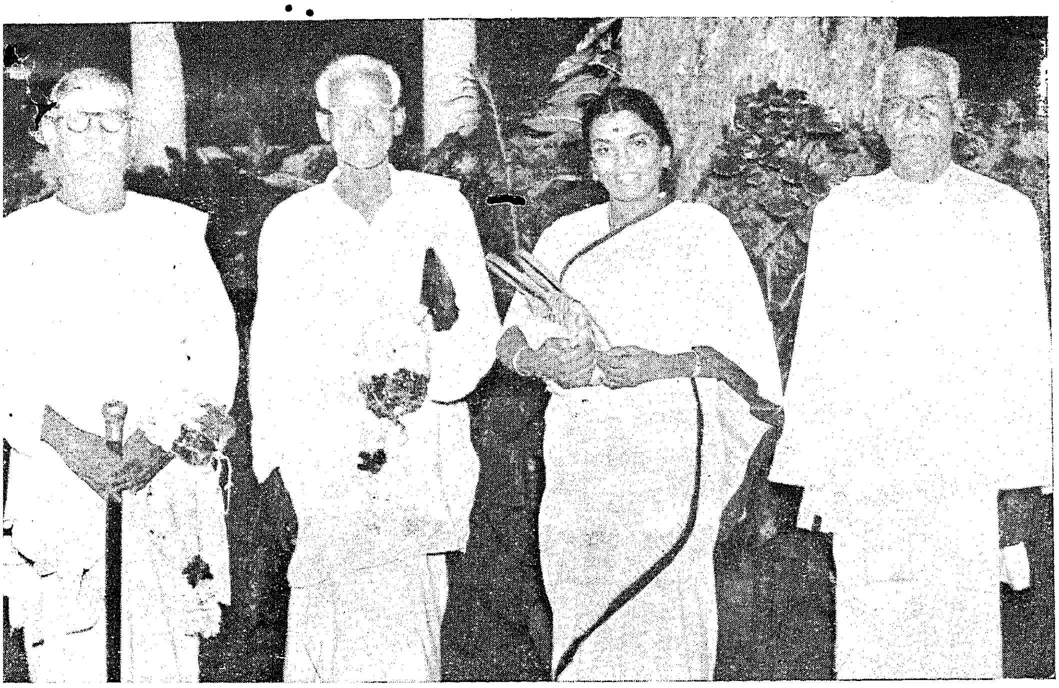
15 JAN 1959
MADRAS

35

FOR THE WELFARE OF HARIJANS

Tools and other implements were distributed by the Chief Minister, to Harijans at Rajaji Hall. The Chief Minister is seen distributing the tools to one of the recipients.



Sarva Sri Sivasubramaniam, Velayudhapani and Vinayagasundaram and Srimathi Saraswathi Pandurangam, eminent Social Workers who worked for the uplift of Harijans were awarded prizes by the Chief Minister on the same day.

*The photograph shows the Chief **Minister** viewing some of the Sewing Machines that were distributed.*

Public Holidays, 1959

The Government have declared that, in addition to Sundays', the following days shall be public holidays ı Madras State in the year 1959:—

New Year's Day ..	Thursday, 1st January 1959.
Bhogi	Tuesday, 13th January 1959.
Pongal	Wednesday, 14th January 1959.
Mattu Pongal ..	Thursday, 15th January 1959.
Republic Day ..	Monday, 26th January 1959.
Mahasivarathri ..	Saturday, 7th March 1959.
Good Friday ..	Friday, 27th March 1959.
Telugu New Year's Day.	Thursday, 9th April 1959.
Ramzan	Friday, 10th April 1959.
Tamil New Year's Day.	Tuesday, 14th April 1959.
Bakrid	Wednesday, 17th June 1959.
Half-yearly closing of Bank Accounts.	Tuesday, 30th June 1959.
Muharram	Friday, 17th July 1959.
Independence Day.	Saturday, 15th August 1959.
Avani Avittam ..	Tuesday, 18th August 1959.
Sri Jayanthi ..	Thursday, 27th August 1959.
Meeladi-Nabi ..	Wednesday, 16th September 1959.
Mahatma Gandhiji's birth day.	Friday, 2nd October 1959.
Ayudha Pooja ..	Friday, 9th October 1959. Saturday, 10th October 1959.
Deepavali	Friday, 30th October 1959. Saturday, 31st October 1959.
Christmas	Friday, 25th December 1959.
Annual closing of Bank Accounts.	Thursday, 31st December 1959.

The Government have further directed that the Government offices under the control of the Government of Madras will be closed on all the above public holidays, except the 30th June and the 31st December 1959. All Penultimate Saturdays except the Penultimate Saturdays in the months of January and October 1959, shall also be observed as holidays for Government offices.

Relaxation of Palar Basin Rules valid till October 1959

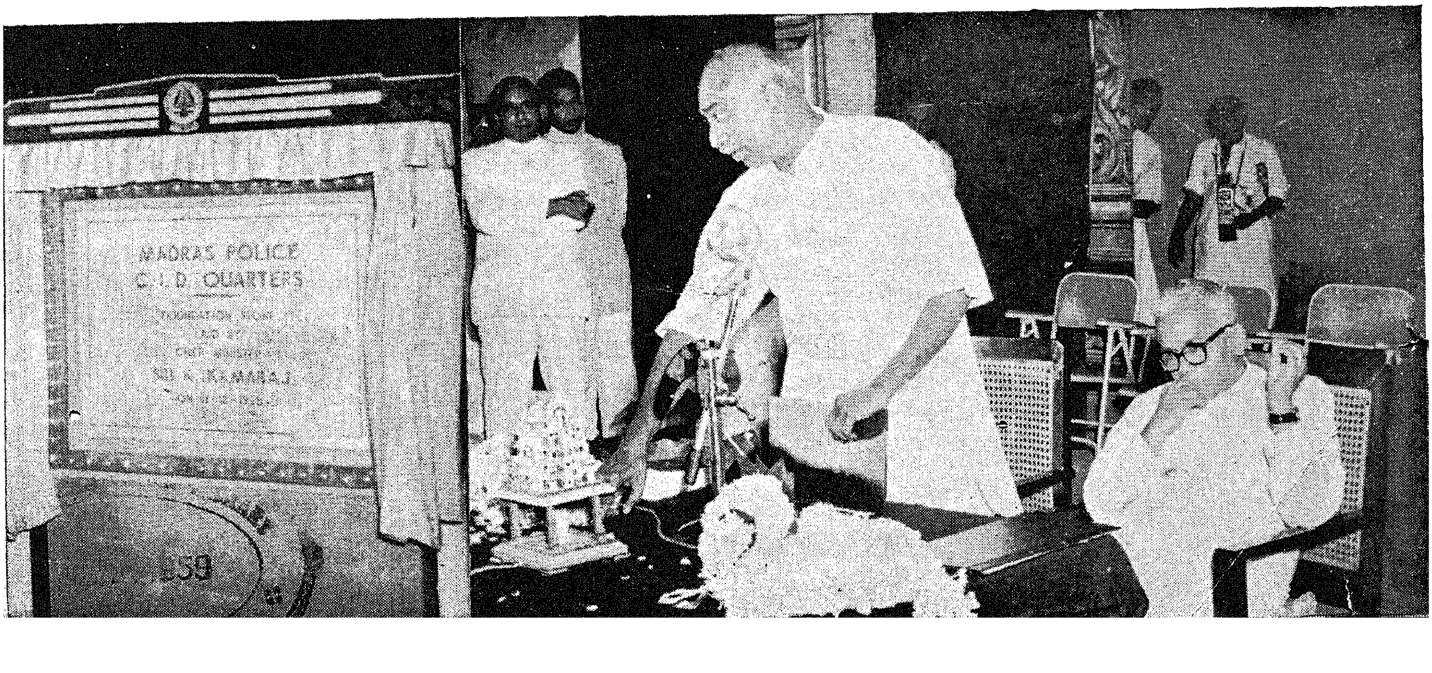
The Government have directed that the relaxation of the Palar Basin Rules be continued till 5th October 1959. The Palar Basin Rules were framed in the year 1931, as it was felt that the Palar system was over-burdened with the irrigation of an area far beyond its capacity. The Government therefore issued orders to the effect that no new irrigation works should be constructed in the Palar Basin and no extension of existing works should be undertaken with the object of increasing the amount of water impounded or drawn off by them. They also directed that no dry lands in the Palar Basin should be transferred to and registered as wet and that no single-crop wet land should be registered as double-crop wet nor the charge for the second crop of any wet land be compounded in that area. These are called the Palar Basin Rules. Since then the Government have been relaxing these rules in the light of prevailing supply position in the Palar Basin. The last relaxation was given in October 1957.

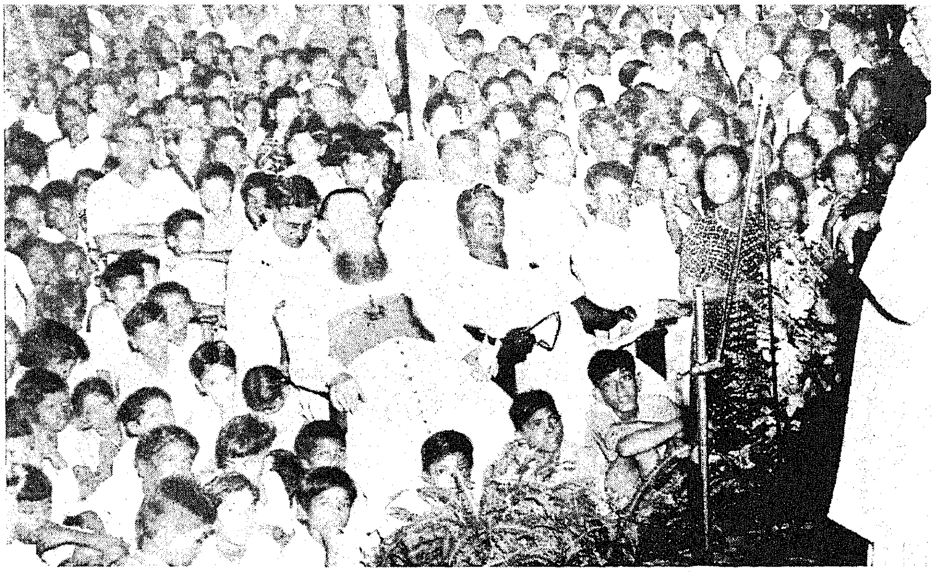
Tenements for Industrial workers at Rajapalayam

The Government have approved the proposal of the Rajapalayam Industrial Workers' Co-operative Housing Society, Limited, Rajapalayam, for the construction of 188 tenements (100 single-storeyed one-roomed tenements and 88 double-roomed single-storeyed tenements) at Rajapalayam at an estimated cost of Rs. 7·13 lakhs.

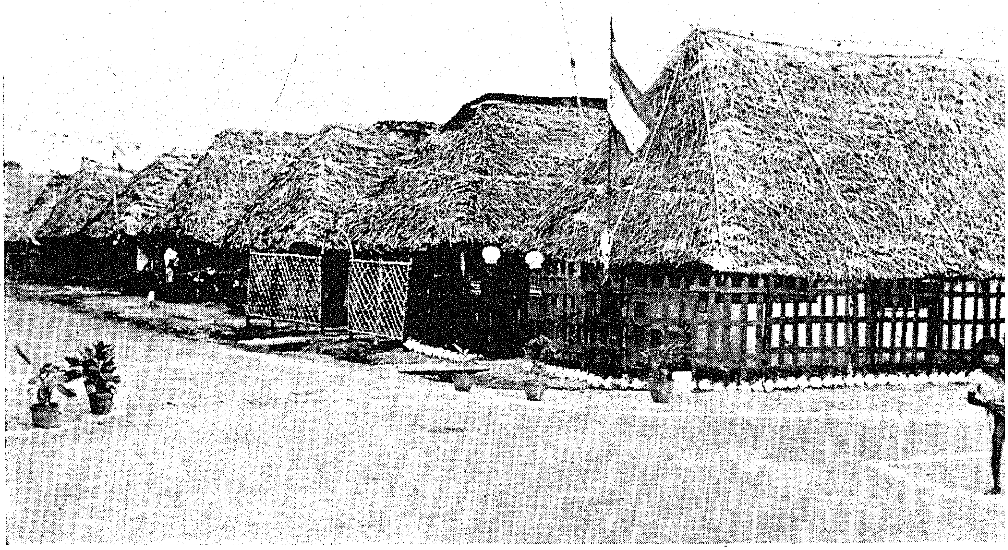
The Society has been given a loan of Rs. 4,34,720. The loan amount will be paid in three instalments according to the stage of progress, while the subsidy will be given in two instalments, the first instalment to coincide with the last instalment of the loan and the second instalment after the acceptance of the final audited accounts. The loan amount is repayable in 25 annual instalments.

Chief Minister Kamaraj laid the foundation stone for the C.I.D. quarters at Raja Annamalaipuram, Mylapore, on December 11, 1958. *Home Minister Bhaktavatsalam presided.*

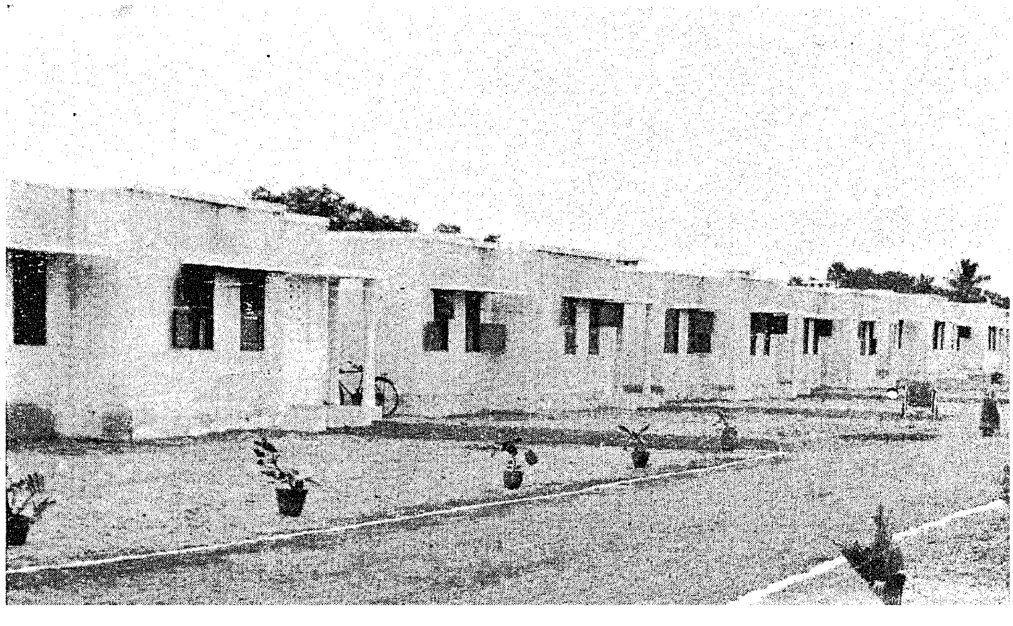




The Chief Minister addressing the gathering at the inaugural function.



The low-income group housing scheme was also inaugurated on the same day by the Chief Minister. The photo shows a group of the newly constructed houses.



Under the Government of India Scheme for the improvement of slums during the Second Plan, this colony was inaugurated on 15*th November* 1958 *at Puliyoor near Kodambakkam by the Chief Minister.*

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